

The Diary of Horatio Nelson Taft, 1861-1865. Volume 2, January 1-December 31, 1863. Transcribed by the Library of Congress.

[Front Cover]

[Front Matter]

Journal Washington Jan'y 1st 1863

January 1, 1863

Washington Thursday Jan'y 1st 1863. Diary.

The New Year has opened beautifully, it has been a mild and bright day. The Departments of the Govt have been (as usual) closed, and the whole City (Males) went at 12 o'clock to pay their respects to the President. The Foreign Ministers and the officers of the Army and Navy paid their respects before 12. I met Genl Halleck at Mr Sec'y Chases, Genl Heintzelman and Genl Meigs at Mr Swards, Comodore Smith and Admiral Foot at Mr Sec'y Stantons, "lesser lights" of both Army and Navy were quite plenty. The expected Proclamation is "out" tonight in the "Star." It carries out the one issued a hundred days ago. Mr Lincoln looks quite as well as he did a year ago. I have seen him frequently during the year. In the summer he used to ride out with a body guard of ten or twelve horsemen (Cavalry) round his carriage. I think he has dispensed with that of late. That was not done at his desire but at the desire of friends who feared for his life. Mr Seward received "in State." Six Policemen at and near the Door & Hall, and a "Gentleman Usher" at the parlor door announced the name of each visitor in a loud voice as he entered the room. I suppose it was "done up" in the English style. No particular news today but indications of Army movements and more Battles. Assisted some today at an extra and really luxurious Dinner

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given to the Patients at the Ascension Church Hospital. No choicer Bill of fare was to be found on any table in the City. The men were feasted on the greatest delicacies to their hearts content. I was in at "Willards" this evening, counted forty pairs of Shoulder Straps there at one time. It is quite disgusting to see (every night) such neglect of duty!!!

January 2, 1863

Washington Friday Jan'y 2nd 1863.

Another most delightful day. The New Year commences very smilingly. May it be an indication of the future fortunes of our Country and may Peace through our whole land smile as brightly long before we see the last of 1863. It is reported tonight that a great Battle was fought yesterday in Tennessee between Rosecrantz & Joe Johnson, result not known. Genl B F Butler is serenaded tonight at "Willards." He has just arrived from New Orleans, being relieved by Genl Banks. Genl McClellan is also here again before the courts of enquiry as a witness. It is rumored that He is to take Stantons place as Sec'y of War. Hope it is true. The Avenue seems to be more thronged than ever afternoons. Everybody is 'out' these pleasant evenings either riding or walking and everything is seen from the Millionaire to the beggar. The carriages of Foreign Ministers, of Cabinet Ministers are usually seen in motion, and the Presidents carriage with its tall driver & footman one will frequently see standing in front of some Merchants door while Mrs L. sits in her seat and examines the rich goods which the obsequious Clerk brings out to her. I called at Mr Jordans this evening a few minutes and spent an hour or two with Chas & Sallie. "Puss" Woodward the youngest daughter was married last night unbeknown to her Father to a Mr A Lieb a clerk in the Land office, a foolish pair.

January 3, 1863

Washington Saturday Jan'y 3, 1863

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We could not have finer weather, the air is soft and balmy as May. It is much like a northern Indian summer. The same blue haze rests upon the horizon. The roads and fields are dry and everything (out doors) invites one to make an excursion. But the beautiful groves on the hilltops have an ominous look even on this side of the River. Everything bears the Mark of the Camp. On the Virginia side of the River, the beautiful groves themselves have nearly all been destroyed to give a good and unobstructed sweep to the cannon in the Forts which crown the Hill Tops. War, like a destroying angel, has passed over the fair fields, and the hills and valleys of the "old dominion." Rebellion has brot a bitter cup to her lips. War, like the dread Sirocco, has swept over her fields, leaving them desolate. A terrible battle has been raging near Nashville Tenn. for the past two or three days. We get no definite news from there tonight and do not yet know the result. But from all accounts it is the bloodiest battle of the War yet fought. Frank must be yet in the Hospital from his wounds rcd on the 8th Dec at Franklin. We may expect active operations now in the South West. Vicksburgh I think is now in our hands, if not it will soon. I wrote home today, sending a Draft for \$50. I went up to the Navy Yard after office hours and took dinner at Mr Angels. Spent an hour or two very pleasantly. His Brother from NY City was there, a very shrewd inteligent man. I walked back to my lodgings, some 2½ miles. Mr Angel moves to Dutchess Co NY this month, He having purchased a farm there.

January 4, 1863

Sunday January 4th 1863. Washington D.C.

A painful suspense have we all been left in today in reference to the "great Battle" reported in Tennessee. The "Sunday Morning Chronicle" has nothing definite as to the result. This Silence is rather ominous of evil, good news travels faster than that over the wires. But the wires may be down. We will solace ourselves with that idea till tomorrow. I attended religious Service at the Capitol this morning. I like to Stray up there of a Sunday morning to not only hear the old Chaplin preach and Miss Rumsey sing. But to gaze on Leutz' fine picture of the Emigrant Party which decorates the Western Stair Case of the South

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Wing. The picture is a Study painted on the wall and covering the whole broad space in front as you ascend the stairs. I cannot but pronounce it the finest painting in the Capitol, it is so life like, so true to Nature. I spent an hour or two at Charleys this evening. I think his confinement in the Hospital is undermining his health. He must live in an impure atmosphere much of the time. In my walk this evening I called at "Willards." There was great anxiety manifested to hear from Rosecrantz. Maj Genl Hooker was there. It is rumored that Burnside is to resign and Hooker be appointed to the Command of the Army of the Potomac. Had a conversation with Eli Thayer in reference to his proposed Florida Emigration Scheme. He is quite sanguine of Success. But the Sec'y of War opposes it in Cabinet meeting.

January 5, 1863

Washington Monday Jan'y 5th 1863

Great excitement in the City tonight. We are Victorious at Murfreesboro. A dispatch has been rcd from Rosecrans setting the matter at rest and I breathe easier again. And we also hear that in all probability Vicksburgh is in our possession. All our news from the South West is highly favorable. There is no doubt but the Rebels were largely re-inforced in Tennessee during the five or six days fight from Richmond or rather from the Army before Fredericksburgh. The Rebels make the most of their system of Rail Roads and their facilities for massing troops at any given point has given them a great advantage. Repeatedly have they been able to re-inforce their armies during battle. Especially were they able to do so at the first battle of "Bull Run" & which won them a Victory and us lasting dishonor. It has been contended that their system of R Roads was designed and the Roads constructed with this very state of things in view years before the Rebellion broke out. But the chief conspirators were silently preparing for it. The worst of it is, they were built (to a great extent) with Northern Capital. At the commencement of the War it is said that the southern States were indebted to the North two hundred millions dollars, much of which was due on Mercantile transactions. We got news today of the loss of the gallant

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little Monitor off Cape Hatteras. She foundered during a heavy sea and some twenty men went down with her or were lost at the time. The "Rhode Island" had her in tow.

January 6, 1863

Washington Tuesday Jan'y 6th 1863

The weather has been delightfully warm, dry & pleasant every day since the New Year came in until today. It has rained all the afternoon and I got some wet in coming from the office without my umbrella. That article is a servant that is frequently absent when most wanted, a fair type of the servants obtained at the "Contraband Depot" in this City, only the advantage is decidedly on the side of the umbrella for that is entirely subject to your will and pleasure, and will go if you carry it, and at least you cannot blame it for not being where you want it to be and is always ready to do its duty. Not so the "Contraband." He will go if you drive him, but is never quite ready or willing when there is work to do. His whole idea of Freedom is, "Nothing to do and plenty to eat." Union faces look brighter today. There is now no doubt of our great success in Tennessee & at Vicksburgh. "All hail the Stars and Stripes." It is a pity that the Rebel Army now in V.A. was not on the Miss. or out of the atmosphere of Washington where the (Quid nuncs) of the Govt could not assume to control our Armies which contend with it. All our Generals are successful except those on the Potomac. Got letter from home today. "Value" has been rcd all Safe, contents duly appreciated, ought to have sent "Willie" a Book. Must send him one by mail. Willie must not be neglected. He will make a man yet if he is rightly trained up.

January 7, 1863

Washington Wednesday Jan'y 7th 1863

Quite cold today with a Sharp raw wind. Went to the Pay Mast[er]'s office with Lieut Belden today, left his papers and we are to call tomorrow afternoon. It is very quiet in the City. No further news from the South West. Genl B F Butler is here from New Orleans still. Where

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he is to be placed is as yet not known. The Country cannot well spare him at this crisis. He would make an admirable Sec'y of War. His administrative abilities are not surpassed in this Country.

My Landlord is an Englishman, Mr Cadman. He rents rooms and takes some boarders. A Capt Thornet boards here, an officer of Cavalry who has seen much service in the English Army. He is an Englishman, was all through the Crimean War, has a due quantity of English brag in his composition, has a great many distinguished friends in England and tells large stories. He has been even noticed by the Duke of Richmond [!! or II?]. Cadman likes a good dinner and consequently we live pretty well. He thinks more of his dog and his gun and field sports than any Yankee could, and English fox hunting and Horse racing are his hobbies. He is in govt employ here and is an excellent Clerk. Mr Mulvany as [sic] an Artist painter at our table. He puts the delicate touches to Bradys pictures (Photographs). He is half Italian, half Irish, and on excellent terms with himself, but a great talker and an unsparing critic of other Artists productions. Lieut Belden stays with me tonight & is to breakfast with me in the morning.

January 8, 1863

Washington Thursday January 8th 1863

This is the anaversary of the Battle of New Orleans. It brings to mind the exploits of Andrew Jackson. O that his old mantle and white hat were still in the "White House." The present times require his energy, his fire and resolution. The Country has been calling for "Jacksons" to Lead our armies but as yet none has appeared. It is said that the crisis brings the Man, but the Man has not appeared as yet. Perhaps the crisis has not yet arrived, perhaps we have not yet suffered enough, have not sacrificed enough. We are not yet humbled enough, and our cause has not yet become desperate enough. Well, we must wait and suffer still. In Gods own time the black clouds of War will clear away and we shall behold again the sun of peace and National prosperity. Our news from

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Vicksburgh was premature. The City is not yet ours as was supposed. The Rebels are there in great strength but the City must fall, but only after much hard fighting. Went to the Pay office again today and succeeded in getting the "greenbacks" for Lieut Belden, at least fifty officers were waiting in the office. We pushed by and got through in half an hour. There is nothing like pushing ahead in these "red tape" offices. Called at Mr Hartleys this evening. "Mat[ty]" has a bad cold and wants to see Julia. She is attending Madam [Burrs or Barrs?] School where they speak nothing but French. Julia would like that. It has been a fine winters day, bright but cold in the morning, indications of snow in the afternoon, a few flakes seen.

January 9, 1863

Friday Jan'y 9th 1863

No Startling news today afloat. Old Elisha Whittlesey died yesterday very suddenly aged about eighty years, his funeral took place this afternoon. He had been a long time in public life as Comptroller of the Treasury and he possessed the unbounded confidence of all who knew his character was unimpeachable. Called on Maj Williams this evening, paid him \$10 for Lieut Belden. Met Doct Stone there, he is in attendance upon Mrs Williams who is sick. The Maj is as full of talk and sharp stories as ever. It is very amusing to hear his remarks upon men and things in Lyons. But I think he is disposed to speak fairly of all, personal feelings of bitterness and acrimony which used to distinguish him when speaking of those opposed to him in politics or otherwise have become much softened. He has learned much the last few years. Congress does not seem to be doing much. The currency Bill, the financial measure of Mr Chase, I fear will be smothered by outside influence. Members will acknowledge the justness and majesty of such a Bill but I fear will lack the courage to face the displeasure of the Banks and interested parties. Mr Chase (the Sec'y of the Treasury) recommends that all paper money shall be U.S. Money and that all Banking Institutions shall be based upon U.S. Stocks. That would give us a safe and uniform Currency. There seems to be an increasing desire to see this terrible War ended, Negro

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or no Negro, Slavery or no Slavery. It does seem preposterous to me that we should be spending Millions, nay hundreds of Millions, and sacrificing scores of thousands of lives to abolish Slavery just now, when we have all we can do to hold our own and hope for success without bringing Slavery into the question.

January 10, 1863

Washington Saturday Jan'y 10th 1863

It has been a miserable cold rainy day, tonight it has poured right down since dark and has not ceased raining all day. I [ran?] to my room from the office after three o'clock and by virtue of rubbers, cloak, and umbrella did not get wet much. One of our Boarders here is named George Johnson, an Englishman who was in the Crimean War and what is more was one of the immortal "Six hundred" which made the celebrated "Charge at Balaclava." He is about 28 years old, very modest & I should think a thorough Soldier. He is Captain in the Penna Cavalry. We do not dine till five o'clock, that is too late for me. It suits Englishmen to eat their dinner after dark. But not Americans. However our dinners are very nicely gotten up and the dishes are of the best in market & well cooked. There is said to be small pox occasionally breaking out in the Hospital over our heads in the Patent office. That is not a very pleasant idea. Such cases (I presume) are immediately sent off to the irruptive Hospital at Kalorama, the former home of the celebrated Joel Barlow of revolutionary memory. Barlow was Minister to France afterwards and died on his way to meet the Emperor Napoleon at Wilna in 1812. No news of importance. "All quiet on the Potomac." Banks getting ready at Baton Rouge to go up to Vicksburgh to help Sherman take that stronghold. Rosecrans is in pursuit of the Rebels since the Battle at Murfreesboro. Some movement is said to be on foot from Suffolk V.A. towards North Carolina. I could not go out tonight on account of the rain to take my accustomed walk. I fear I shall not be able to sleep well tonight.

January 11, 1863

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Washington Sunday Jan'y 11th 1863

Attended religious service in the Senate Chamber this morning. If the service was not so very interesting, one can endure even a dull sermon while lolling in a Senatorial chair. Chaplin Stockton held forth in the other chamber. The crossings are very muddy since the rain of last night, but the weather has not been unpleasant today. We had roast goose with celery and a variety of vegetables for dinner, had a talk at dinner with Johnson of the "Light Brigade." He gave me a minute account of the "Charge." Only 180 men rode out of the scrape, near one hundred afterwards straggled in who were not wounded, the bal. were killed and wounded. He (Johnson) had his horse killed and got a shot through the leg. I was down to Willards this evening an hour or so. Always see a number there that I know who tell me the news if there is any. Was told by Maj Chase that the Rebels are reported to have retaken Galveston Texas with 600 prisoners and the Steamer Harriet Lane. I think it is a "Secesh" lie. There is a great deal of growling among the shirking officers and soldiers about the War. They are "tired of fighting for the Nigger." I think Mr Lincoln intended to give the Rebels a hard blow by his Proclamation of freedom, careing less about abolishing Slavery than crushing the Rebellion. Interested and short sighted men declare it is all for the abolition of Slavery. Went over on to 9th Street and spent an hour with Chas & Sallie. A lady from Gloucester Mass presented her with a \$15.00 Photograph Album. Her son was in Chas Hospital. They had been spending the afternoon at Father Woodward's with the baby, which is growing fat rapidly.

January 12, 1863

Washington Monday Jan'y 12 1863

The capture of Galveston & the Steamer "Harriet Lane" by the Rebels has become a fixed fact and is not a "Secesh lie," and what is full as bad, our forces were badly repulsed at Vicksburgh with much loss to us. Our "Army of the potomac" is still idle on this side of the Rappahannock. Around Washington there are troops enough to fill the City with their

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officers every day who for the most part much prefer to air their Uniforms on the Avenue to staying with their commands in the Camps. I was placed this morning upon the Examining Board of the Land office, that is, to examine the patent Deeds and records after they are finished by the writers. It is a place of considerable responsibility and importance. I was at Vanmasters Room an hour or two tonight. He seems to be doing an extensive business prosecuting Claims &c. A great crowd at Willards, "Stars" and eagles and smaller birds very plenty. Met Whiting the distinguished Lawyer of Boston. He is here as the Attorney of the War Department, also saw Col Allen of Boston. Pay Master Austin from Auburn NY has his office & Room below Stairs at my present place of abode. He invited me to call and see him this morning and I must do so. There is plenty of Small pox near the City or rather in the suburbs if not directly in our midst. About 250 cases are reported among the Negroes near the Contraband Depot up 12th Street. There are many cases now all over the City.

January 13, 1863

W[ashington]. Tuesday Jan'y 13th 1863 (My Birth day) 57 years.

The first thing that I hear in the morning is the cry of the News Boys, "Baltimore Sun & Clipper," "Morning Chronicle," "Northern Battle." At 3 o'clock the "Star." About 4 o'clock it is "Star 2nd Edition," "Northern Union Victory." After the N York mail gets in which is about 6 o'clock, the boys run through the Streets crying "N York Herald, Tribune, and Times." The Baltimore papers and the Washington papers are sold at three cents, the NY at 5 cts, which are about three times the size of the "Sun" or Star. The old "Inteligencer" is distributed without any Noise. It stands on its dignity. Treads where it trod forty years ago, never radical or very divided in anything, trimming its sails to suit the breeze as far as prudence allows. It has lived through all administrations for half a Century and almost always enjoyed the patronage of the Govt until now. The Globe and the Republican are also daily papers. Nothing New today, all quiet. The Govt seems waiting (like Mr McCawber) "for something to turn up." If it could only hatch out a Military genius who could

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lead our troops to Victory in Virginia, it would pay for sitting still. Victory is what we want now with gold at forty per cent over Treasury notes. I have not labored very hard today on the "Board," have not had much to do. Was down to "Willards" awhile, saw Genl McDowell and Genl Heintzelman there. Qr Master Knowles called upon me today at the office. The hundreds of officers around the City have got what (in former times) was a Paradise to the southern employees in the Departments of the Govt, that is, "High Salaries and nothing to do."

January 14, 1863

Washington Wednesday January 14th 1863.

As gloomy and as dark as two years ago are the days now. When we look into the future for our Country Dark days were those, and it looks dark now for the preservation of our Union. Our vast armies seem to be lying idle or baffled everywhere by our alert enemies. But worse than all there are indications of mutiny among ourselves. The weakness and imbecility of the Govt manifested in the Management of the War has raised a storm in the north and west that looks dark and threatening. People are tired and sick of the war, and now the Political leaders say, and the mass of the people believe, that the object of the war is now not what it was (to preserve the Union). But, to free the Negroes (an abolition War) and they hate abolitionists as well as the Negroes. Under present circumstances no Union or re-construction can take place. Nothing in fact but crushing the rebels, entirely subduing them, can bring Peace. It dont now look as though we were able to do that, and in any case the South say they will accept No Terms short of their Independence. Well, the War must Continue for a long while yet. (Gold today 147). Got letters from home & one from Lieut Belden from Lyons. Called and spent an hour with Mr Haws on I St. I consider him a rising man. He certainly is a thriving one. There is no news in particular, quite a financial panic. If this miserable Congress does not adopt Mr Chases measures, we shall go to ruin soon.

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January 15, 1863

Washington Thursday Jan'y 15th 1863

I have reason to be thankful that my health is so good. Today I have felt extremely well and have been quite busy all day although I have not done much on the "Board." Josephine (Maj E Ps wife) and Mrs H P Knowles called upon me at my office about noon and I spent a couple of hours with them showing them round the Pat office, and Dead Letter office. We also visited Mr McGuires Picture Gallery on E st. The ladies were much pleased with all they saw. I promised to go out to Fort Gaines tomorrow and return their "Call." I [c]onfess that I have not been very neighborly with my Lyons Friends of the 138th, never having been out to Fort Gaines. But it is difficult getting there on foot after leaving the cars & "Bus." Spent an hour with Chas & Sallie. The Ascension Hospital is broken up. The Surgeon Genl told Chas that he could have his choice of all the Hospitals in the District, and be transfered to which he chose. He decides tomorrow. The baby is growing finely on the bottle. She has never nursed it much. Called at Doct Munsons and staid till past 9. Mr & Mrs White there from Albany, also Mr & Mrs Whitney from Rochester. Heard something from Mis Read (in a very sly way) of a secret "League" of Loyal Gentlemen now forming in the City to act in support of the Govt &c. I must enquire and find out all about it if I can and perhaps join it. I was a Minuet Man two years ago when we were in great Peril. I will be one now if necessary. No very bad news, a gun Boat and some Transports taken by the Rebels on the Cumberland River. The Army of the Potomac, it is reported, is moving. Called upon Maj Austin, Pay Master from Auburn. Saw Mr Meeker (his Clerk) and Mrs Meeker, also from Auburn NY.

January 16, 1863

Washington Friday Jan'y 16th 1863

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Rumors today of a movement of the Army of the Potomac. It is believed to be a good time for it. The Rebels have undoubtedly been sending off a portion of their Army to Tennessee and N Carolina and I think our army will cross the River above Fredericksburgh, but perhaps below. More Battles and more killed and wounded, more pain and suffering. But perhaps the War is but just begun. We can and will fight for years for the preservation of the Union, if necessary, if our finances are put in a good condition. That is or seems to be now the worst feature of the business. But the Rebels must be much the worst off in that respect. We have at any rate got the most men and the most money and can stand the War the longest time. Young Ed Rogers from Lyons called upon me today and we agreed to go up to the Camp of the 138th together this afternoon, but I have not seen him since and waited so long for him that I could not go myself. Bought some Books for the Boys which I will send by mail tomorrow. I am quite well pleased with my new position in the office as Examiner of Patent Deeds. The Board is composed of three, Mr Martin Buel, Mr O Abell, and myself. We also examine the Records. The Churches are all to be given up and the "Ascension" is clear of Patients. But the order in regard to that church has been countermanded. Chas has order[s] to have it ready tomorrow for 100 patients again.

January 17, 1863

Saturday Jan'y 17, 1863

Heard tonight that the Army have crossed the Rappahannock below Fredericksburgh 10 miles. We shall hear of a Battle in a day or two. The Patent office is being cleared of Patients today. It may be it is only to make room for more wounded. It is sad to think of. Yesterday and today the weather has been very cold, that is freezing with wind. Capt Swan called this morning having just returned from Lyons on a visit. He is bound for the army. I called upon Vanmaster this evening and also upon Mr & Mrs Read where I spent a couple of hours very pleasantly. They seem to think a great deal of me. I expect he will propose my name to the Patriotic "League" for membership. I do not know yet what it is exactly but think the object good if it is to expose traitors in office or out of office and

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uphold the government at all hazzards. I called upon Hon Mr Daws, M.C., last evening, had quite a talk with him about Mr Chases financial scheme. He I find is one of the Country Bank Men. It will inte[r]fere with some of his Bank constituents to support Mr Cs idea, and and [sic] the same miserable plea by other members will defeat the measure. I talked pretty plain to Mr D. upon the matter. Told him that discussions in Congress upon this matter was injuring the country just now more than the Rebels were, and that all Banks of Issue were unconstitutional in my view - and such was the opinion of many of our former and best Statesmen.

January 18, 1863

Washington Sunday Jan'y 18th 1863

A fine cold winter morning, ground hard frozen. Attended religious Services in the Capitol, heard Mr Stockton (the Chaplain). Took a look at Leutzes picture of the "Emigrants." The more I look at it the more I admire it. Miss Rumsey always sings with one other female and three male singers at the Hall of the "House" Sundays. She is a public singer at concerts and other places, particularly at the Hospitals for the soldiers. She and her intended husband Mr spend about all their time for the soldiers. They have raised a Library for them of several hundred Vols. I visited the Ascension Hospital, it is again full of Patients and Chas is as busy as ever. I spent an hour or two in their rooms after he left the Hospital, took tea with them, held the baby while it went to sleep sucking its thumb. I was a little surprised when he asked me to stay & play a game of Chess. I do not play any game Sunday or Sunday evening, told him so. I suppose it is from habit for I do not think I have any too much respect for the Sabbath as a holy day. It may be from respect to the habit and teaching of my Father. But then He kept Saturday night and not Sunday night, "so there I am again." When I was a boy in N England Sunday began at sundown Saturday & ended at sundown Sunday. Called at A B Williamss and spent an hour and then to my room. Williams intends to sell his property in Lyons and live here altogether. That may suit him but it would not suit me were I in his place.

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January 19, 1863

Monday Jan'y 19th 1863

This has been another cold day but clear and pleasant. I did not have much to do in the office after making out my weekly report. All seems to be in uncertainty in regard to the movements of the Army of the Potomac. But I think it is again over the Rappahannock. Went up to Georgetown after office hours with a view of going out to Fort Gaines, but was too late, so I came back to Browns the ("Metropolitan") where I met John C Adams. He is a "Chip off[f] the old Block." Also met Capt Swan there. We agreed to go up to the 138th Regt tomorrow. He intends to return to the Army in a day or two. Important news (which seems to be official) from the Arkansas River. Seven Regts of rebels taken prisoners and a great amount of Stores and Ammunition. Genl McClernand in command of our troops. I called at Charleys and staid an hour and then went to Odd Fellows Hall to hear readings or recitations from "Madame Lizzy Bell." Her recitations were very good. He had quite a good house. James E Murdoch and George Vanderhoff both read tonight, the former in the Senate Chamber and the latter in "Willards Hall." I must hear Vanderhoff tomorrow night. I do get lonesome sometimes, but not often. With my Books and my writing in my room with a good fire I enjoy myself tolerably well. I go into the Hotels almost every night but do not often sit down. Always meet old friends and acquaintances there. "Shoulder Straps" are rather more scarce since a late "order" ordering all officers to their commands. Sent three newspapers home today, got no letters.

January 20, 1863

Washington Tuesday Jan'y 20th 1863

A cold raw wind all day. But Capt Swan and myself started about noon for Fort Gaines and vicinity, which we visited and returned to the City about 5 o'ck. I saw a number of Lyons people attached to the 138th. Fort Gaines is a very small affair but is situated on

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quite a commanding eminence mounting five guns (32 pounders). As we could not get a conveyance back from Tenallytown as we expected we walked back to Georgetown having rode up there in the "Bus." We walked altogether at least 5 miles. I think I shall sleep well tonight. A thousand rumors are afloat in reference to the movements of the Army of the Potomac. But nothing is public or reliable in reference to any movement as yet. But something is going on. We shall know what soon. We did not see Maj E. P. Taft or lady as they started for Lyons today. He on furlough of thirty days. Capt Swan goes back to his Regt on Thursday next. Geo. Vanderhoff does not read tonight as I expected but tomorrow night. I was in at Willards awhile, officers of the Army quite scarce. The Hotel is full of strangers who come and go all the time so that it is full of new faces almost every day. It is decidedly the Hotel of Washington. It is said that the Proprietors make \$1200 pr day from six to eight hundred guests, who pay upon an average at least four dollars pr day. It is inclined to storm tonight. I think we will have a snow storm tomorrow.

January 21, 1863

Washington Wednesday Jan'y 21st 1863

No snow storm but a cold, windy, rainy day. All last night it seemed to pour down, and as the wind drove the rain against my window I could not help thinking of the thousands of poor Soldiers who must be lying on the ground with only a partial shelter from the storm, and had I been as young and vigorous as I was twenty years ago I should have felt almost guilty as I drew the covering around me in my warm bed, so comfortable and secure from the hardships and dangers which I should have felt it my duty to share in the present crisis. Capt Swan called at the office and staid a little while with me. My roommates insist upon my having charge of the Room and Signing my name first to all documents. Well, neither the responsibility or the labor is very great. I went to hear Geo Vanderhoff read this evening at Willards Hall. He read from "Les Miserables" & "Oliver Twist." The opening of the former and the trial at "Arras," and the Courtship of Mr Bumble and Mrs Corney from the latter. It was most admirable. He excels Murdoch in giving all the delicate touches of

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feeling by countenance and gesture, his face expressing as much as his words, but his voice is not as clear and distinct as Murdochs. Yet he is evidently a more cultivated and better educated man. The Hall was full altho it rained. There is nothing new today. We as yet know nothing from below or whether the army has moved. Wrote quite a long letter to H. N. Jr, counseled him in reference to his Reading and Studies. Memory was like an elastic bag &c.

January 22, 1863

Washington Thursday Jan'y 22nd 1863

Another chilly, wet, misty, muddy day. It has passed off very quietly. But we were somewhat startled to learn tonight that Maj Genl Fitz John Porter was "cashiered and dismissed from the Service." The verdict of the court is said to have been unanimous. McDowell will come out better. There is a rumor tonight that there has been another Battle near Fredericksburgh and that Genl Hooker is mortally wounded, but I think it is only a rumor. The evening "Republican" contained it. Genl Burnside's address to the Army of the Potomac is in the "Star" this evening. My old friend John Merchant (& Lady) from Lyons called on me this morning. I showed them round the Pat office and this evening called and spent an hour or two with them at Mr Wm Ormes where they are stopping on E St. Mrs Merchant (who was Harriet Cole, daughter of Joseph Cole deced) is a cousin of Mrs Orme. Mr O is one of the wealthy men of Washington, has lived here near forty years. A girl who has been with the army and acted as female scout in "Seigels Corps" called here while we were at dinner to see Capt Johnson of the "Light Brigade" distinction. The Capt would not see her. She claims that he promised to marry her and seemed quite disconsolate. I did not see her. I weighed 142lb today. Am well and hearty as I ever was. For dinner today we had a nice meat pie, chickens & Beef, potatoes (Irish & sweet), turnip, cabbage and celery. For desert Rice pudding with a cup of tea. We dine at 5 o'clock. \$30.00 pr month for room and Board, fire & light.

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January 23, 1863

Friday Jan'y 23rd 1863

It has been quite pleasant today overhead but muddy and bad at the crossings of the streets. No particular news from the Army or from any other quarter. Congress seems disposed to meet Mr Chases views and I think that his financial scheme will be adopted in the main. That is for the Gov't to furnish the circulation for the whole country to give a uniform currency, and tax the present Bank circulation (Bills) out of existence. The Gov't would gain the interest on such circulation as it would be equivalent to a loan without interest. The people would gain from it the enormous amt now paid for exchange, as the Govt Bills would be current everywhere and a legal tender, and to prevent any redundancy of circulation any surplus could be converted into 6 pr cent twenty year Govt Bonds. These Bonds would act like a Safety Valve to the circulation. I spent an hour or two at Doct Munsons with Mr & Mrs Bemis of Canandagua. Her husband is Lieut and stationed at one of the Forts near the City. His wife (Kate Adams) is on a visit to him. She is a very lovely woman, as she was an amiable girl. They endeavor to flatter me very much at Doct Munsons by speaking in very high terms of me almost before my face. Perhaps they feel all they say. They are certainly very good friends to me. Their company is rather more after my style than that which I am in - in this English house. But the people here do all they can to please me, and know how to set a good table. Met G W Scott of Newark NY today. He is in the State Department. Boards on NY Ave. I must call there soon.

January 24, 1863

Washington Saturday Jan'y 24th 1863

Mild and pleasant today, not much like winter. We have passed a quiet day, no Stirring news afloat and no startling rumors. Some successes of our Western gun Boats under the gallant Porter on the White River are published. The news boys cry it as "another

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Union Victory." Let us take it as such for we need them badly just now. I cannot imagine where we are drifting to as a Nation. An immense Army and (I may almost say) nobody competent to command it. A country with inexhaustable resources and (I may almost say again) nobody competent to direct and apply its energies. In the present fearful crisis, we have realy no Talented Statesman, no public Men (who are up to the "times") directing the affairs of the Nation, no Military genius to direct our great "Army of the Potomac," and the army itself is now melting away by resignations of officers, and desertions, at a fearful rate. When drafting in the States has proved a failure, how is it ever to be recruited or preserved from utter ruin unless it soon wins a victory. I have spent the most of this evening with Vanmaster at his office on the Avenue. Bouge came in (quite sober). He is the pink of assurance and self confidence, but poor and needy. Poor Bouge. Twenty years ago he was the ("nice young man" the Ladies Man in Lyons) now geting old, living as it were by chance, the wreck of his former self, the sad effects of "wine & women." I have not been interupted by any calls today, have worked some & read a good deal.

January 25, 1863

Sunday Jan'y 25th 1863

Attended religious Service in the Senate Chamber this morning, heard Mr Conway from Cincinnati. His Sermon was most excellent till he began to treat upon the subject of Slavery. On that he was most ultra. Altho a Virginian he was fairly driven out of Washington a few years ago for preaching Anti Slavery sermons in the Unitarian Church. He makes Slavery his "hobby," and vies with Wendal Phillips in his extravagant views. We dine at two on Sundays after which I spent a couple of hours in the Ascension Hospital, and then called upon Mr & Mrs Bemis at the "Herndon House" where I spent an hour. Capt Denison and Judge Phelps from Canandagua were there. From there I went down to "Willards" to hear any news which might be stirring. It is reported there tonight that Genl Burnside has resigned the command of the "Army of the Potomac." If it is true, it is well. I do not think he has confidence enough in himself, and I doubt whether the other officers

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have enough confidence in him. Who is to follow? Joseph Hooker, I think. Conversed awhile with Mr Hatch who has two sons (officers in the Army). He thinks they are the smartest and the bravest in the Army. Saw and talked awhile with Doct Sheldon, of the Medical Directors office. He understands that Doct Taft (Charley) has made out all of Doct Dorrs reports. Dr D is the Surgeon superintending the "Ascension Genl Hospital," 4 churches formerly, now only two. No War news at all today. We are expecting to hear from our army in N.C. every day now, and also from the south western armies.

January 26, 1863

Washington Monday Jan'y 26th 1863

Well, Genl Burnside has resigned and "fighting Joe" Hooker is in command of the "Army of the Potomac," and Genls Sumner & Franklin are relieved of their commands. What this last thing means remains to be seen, Court Martials possibly. I dread the effects which these movements may have upon the Army. Every Genl has his favorites and devoted friends who are always ready to Swear by him. Hooker is a gallant officer, he may be the Man for the place, we shall see soon. No other particular news today. Gold 150, the highest yet. The Banks of the Country are likely to defeat the measures for a niform U.S. Currency. Too many truckling M.C.s looking to a re-election, or interested in Banks at home. It would cut off their sale of exchange and then they could not "burst up" once in awhile and leave their worthless trash in the hands of the Laboring Classes. When will the people learn wisdom and proffit by experience. Little Kate Williams called on me today and staid an hour or two in my office after I had shown her through the Pat office. I called after dinner upon Judge Scott on NY Ave. Ex Gov Fairwell of Wis. was there. He is in the Pat O as Examiner, did not see Ex Gov Bashford, he being out. On my return called and spent the rest of the evening with Chas & Sallie, returned to my room after 10 o'clock. The weather is quite warm and I am writing at this time (near eleven o'clock P.M.) without fire, and am not uncomfortable. Weighed 142 lbs today on the Pat office Scales. Am in good health.

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January 27, 1863

Tuesday Jan'y 27th 1863

This has been a wet drizzly day, one well calculated to give a person the "blues," and I think that almost every one has the "blues" in view of our present state of affairs. The future looks as dark and unpromising as ever. The rebellion seems to be just as far from being "crushed" as it did a year ago, in fact much farther, for we as a Nation are much more divided among ourselves. Where the end will be no one human can divine. All sorts of opinions prevail in reference to the changes in the "Army of the Potomac." Some think it is all for the best and some that there will be a general dissolution of it and that it will soon fall to pieces. But we may soon hear of important successes in the South West and Hooker may soon strike a successful blow, and then, all will be right again, but today gold is 154. Got letters from home today, family all well. "Willie" would like to come back to Washington. He doubts the Safty of his present location as in the late terrific storm the "Waves of the Sea roared so loud." I have spent most of the evening at Maj Williams eating apples & nuts and talking about Lyons people. The Maj has gone down to Suffolk to pay a Regiment. Mrs W. told me that her daughter (Mrs Townley) was to have been married to Henry T. Tower this morning at Lyons. She expects they will visit Washington. Mr & Mrs Bemis called upon me this morning at the office and I went through the Pat office Museum with them. A few Patients still remain in the Hospital there, too sick to be removed. It is raining quite hard now, 10 o'clock P.M.

January 28, 1863

Washington Wednesday Jan'y 28th 1863.

It has snowed all day without cessation, but it has melted about as fast as it has come. It is a little colder tonight and the snow is three or four inches deep on the ground. Mr & Mrs Bemis called on me again today and I took them to the Agricultural Department and

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introduced them to the Commissioner Hon Isaac Newton who was quite attentive to them and the interview was very pleasant and quite interesting. He gave Mrs B. a number of specimens of paper made from the common cornhusk and recently rcd from Germany, proveing beyond a doubt that the best of paper can be made from the husks of indian corn. The Dutch have got ahead of the Yankees in that thing. They then went with me to the Ascension Hospital. She was anxious to see the patients. She was also highly pleased to see Charley, who was one of her old Sunday School scholars in Lyons. He was just using the "Hypodermic Syringe," an instrument for injecting medicine under the skin instead of swallowing it. It is used in cases of billious cholic, Neuralgia & Rheumatic pains with much success. He was injecting a highly concentrated Morphia Solution for rheumatic pains. There is no particular news today. But things look a little more hopeful for the future, altho gold is 1.55 today in NY. I went out and have spent the evening at Charleys room, held the baby some, read some, and played a game of chess. It snows still and if it freezes we shall have sleighing tomorrow. O the poor soldiers in the field, how they must suffer tonight.

January 29, 1863

Thursday Jan'y 29th 1863

It has been a wintery day, the snow still lying on the ground but it has frozen very little. The streets are deep with "slush." The City is very quiet. All are in anxious expectation of hearing important news from some quarter, either from Rosecrans in Tennessee, or from Grant at Vicksburgh. From Hunter in S.C. or from Genl Foster in N.C. The "Army of the Potomac" is near by and will move when it can get out of the Mud. A little excitement in the Senate for the past day or two. A motion to expel Senator Saulsbury of Delaware for disorderly conduct on the floor was postponed today upon his making an apology. The Bill in the House to authorize the raising of Negro Regiments for the War creates much excitement there and the House did not adjourn yesterday, but sat all night and adjourned this morning without coming to a vote upon the question. I have not been out of my room

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since dinner. The side walks are too wet for walking. Doct Barnes called upon me today on his return from Rochester. I paid him \$15.00 which I owed him. He is on his way back to his Regt. Business in the office has not been very brisk today, and the "Examining Board" have not had much to do. I have been reading and writing most of the day. Wrote "The Last Salute" for one thing and another article for a newspaper in reference to Hospital Funds. Pay Master Austin returned from the Army today, left there this morning.

January 30, 1863

Washington Friday January 30th 1863

Not an unpleasant day over head but the Streets are in an awful condition, being unpaved they are almost impassible. Assisted Mrs Reed in the "N York Soldiers Relief association" Room in packing a Box to send to one of the Regts over the River. The room is in the basement of the Pat office and is cramed with all sorts of things which have been sent from NY State for the Soldiers from NY. Some member of the association visits each Hospital and ascertains what is needed and gives his order to some Soldier who goes with it to the room where it is honored. Sometimes the Visitor takes the articles himself to the Hospital and distributes them. But frequent impositions are practiced by the soldiers and playing "destitute" is quite a "game." There are plenty of jews here to buy the articles of clothing and the money brings whiskey and the guard house also. Spent an hour at the Ascension Hospital talking with the boys. They are generally cheerful and contented. There are many there badly wounded but doing well. Called at Doct Munsons. He joins the Army tomorrow much against the will of himself and family, but he is ordered away. Was in at Willards awhile, talked with the celebrated Gift Enterprize Man, Genl Perham. He has his plan for subdueing the Rebels. I have his pamphlet. He goes for an armed occupation by Sutlers from the North. He will provide Excursion Tickets for them on all Rail Roads!! Got back to my room about eight o'clock. Wrote an article for a morning paper & this page, 11 o'clk.

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January 31, 1863

Washington Saturday Jan'y 31st 1863

The month of Jan'y has passed away and in looking back I find matters connected with the War in much the same condition they were in a month ago. It seems no nearer a close, but on the whole I think matters look more bright for us generally. The Rebels through their papers repudiate all ideas of our Peace men at the North as to a "re-construction of the Union." Nothing Short of entire Independence on their part will bring peace. Well, it seems [to] be a question of endurance, and we will see who can stand it the longest. We are expecting successes now and nothing else, two or three victories would do wonders for us during the next month, as many defeats would ruin us. I think we are pretty well prepared for the former. An immense force must now be near Vicksburgh and we are expecting to hear of a terrible fight there soon. Genl Grant is in command. I have been in the office as usual today. After dinner I called upon Vanmaster and staid an hour and then attended a meeting at Mr Sweatlands rooms convened to make arrangements for a Musical Concert to come off next week for the benefit of the NY Soldiers. P H Ostrander is the active man in the affair. Nothing of importance in the way of news. Congress is squabbling over the Negro Regiment Bill. Gold 1.58 today. It is speculation, a sort of ["Morus Multicaulus"?] fever that is raging. Genl Benj F Butler is at the "National." Many other celebrities are are [sic] in town. Called at Charleys rooms. "Sallie" is quite ill. The baby Jessie sucks her thumb and grows fat.

February 1, 1863

Washington. Feb'y 1st 1863. Sunday.

Went to the Capitol today and heard the Chaplin Dr Stockton. He is rather dry and tedious, his sermons this winter have been more of a doctrinal, than a practical character. I believe in practical Christianity and practical preaching. I dont suppose that I am very orthodox,

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for it does not matter much to me whether a man believes this or that particular dogma, or belongs to this or that denomination. If he acts like a christian from day to day. If he is always ready to do as he would be done by. To forgive as he would wish to be forgiven, I am bound to believe that he has the spirit of Christs teachings in him and is a christian. After all my experience in the world I am much given to judging the tree by its fruit, professions of faith and all the "thirty nine Articles" to the contrary notwithstanding. After dinner I walked up to the "Stone Hospital," got very muddy. Staid there a couple of hours and walked back in a drizzling rain. Not many NY Soldiers there. One, Robert White, must have his foot taken off. He is a brave boy, not over eighteen, says he wants it done soon, as he can then go home after a little while, poor lad, he has much to suffer yet. He is from Westchester Co. of the 9th NY Militia. I have not been out since I returned. Got two good letters from home this morning, one from Wife, and one from Julia. They seem much elated because I spoke in my last of going home in a month or so. I will go if I can consistantly with my duties in the office.

February 2, 1863

Monday Feb'y 2nd 1863

Have not done much in the office today, there has not been much to do. I wrote a letter home inclosing a draft for \$75.00, also sent a bundle of news papers. I send one every day, the "daily Chronicle," which is left at my room every morning. A number of Soldiers have called on me today for assistance. I went to the N York Rooms with them and gave them a supply. Sent a nice can of fruit to Robert White and another to a poor sick fellow by the name of Chandler from Livingston Co, the only two N.Y. men who were at all badly off in that Hospital. Paid my months Board, Room rent &c, wood & Light included, \$30.00. Think of leaving here, but do not know where I cou[I]d do any better just now. Went down to the Ave this evening. Sat and read an hour or more in Taylors Book Store. Got hold of Hon Henry Ruttans work on warming and ventilation. He lives in Cobourg C.W. I used to know him. I bo't Harper's Monthly and have been reading it since I returned to my room. "A

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Californian in Iceland” by J Ross Browne is quite interesting and amusing, his powers of description are unequaled. Some body is being Serenaded tonight as a Band of Music has struck upon the street. It is now after eleven o'clock. Some distinguished character is in the neighborhood. Well, the music is good and sounds just as well to the neighbors as though they paid for it. No War news today. Everything quiet on the Potomac. But news expected all the time, especialy from N.C. as well as Vicksburgh. It has been pleasant over head.

February 3, 1863

Washington Tuesday Febru'y 3rd 1863

It was quite warm and pleasant this morning. But tonight it is cold with a kee[n] north wind which quite upsets all my calculations for comfort in my room for the chimney and my stove do not work together at all, the draft being decidedly down instead of up. I have consequently been obliged to surrender the premises and have spent the evening with my Artist friend Mr Mulviny whose room is below stairs. He has fine Stereoscopic Views and a good Instrument and many fine pictures. He himself is half Irish & half Italian. The concert for the NY soldiers goes off tomorrow night. I have got ten tickets to Sell. I am afraid the whole thing will be a “Sell” with P.H. Ostrander as manager. I think the House will be full as great efforts are making to sell tickets. If the audience are not “Sold,” I shall be glad. Called this morning at Charleys to say to him that some of the Patients at the Ascension Hospital were complaining of Doct Dorr, and want of attention. Some of the Soldiers are given to complaining and are never Satisfied whatever their treatment may be. Such men can make a great deal of trouble if they try as there is always plenty of anxious listeners visiting the Hospitals and take it for granted that a sick or wounded soldier would always tell the truth. It is bitter cold tonight for the poor soldiers in the field and it is freezing hard.

February 4, 1863

Washington Wednesday. Feb'y 4th 1863

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It has been the coldest day of the Season with a sharp cutting wind. The "Grand Concert" came off this evening. I had tickets rather more than I sold but did not see or hear much of the Concert. I think the audience (which was a large one) were not very well satisfied and rather felt "sold." I was spending most of the evening more pleasantly with Genl Havelock at his room on F Street by invitation. The Genl is an open hearted honest old Soldier. The President invited him over here from England to take charge of the Cavalry as it arrived from the country and fit it for Service. He thinks he has not been very handsomely treated by the Sec'y of War as his Views and plans have not met with much favor at the War office. He holds a Col's Commission, was Genl in the British Army. We sat and talked and drank sherry near two hours. He is a fine specimen of the English Gentleman and brother of the celebrated Genl Havelock of India fame. My Stove "goes off" tonight and the wood melts away in it like wax as it is a very cold night for this City. Mercury is 10 above zero. No war news of any importance, everything must be frozen up. The Potomac was frozen over this morning. There are indications in congress that Mr Chases Banking system will be adopted. Gold dropped yesterday five per cent, but is up again today to 159 under the influence of some "Secesh" news to the effect that some of our Blockading Squadron at Charlston had been destroyed by two rebel "iron Clads." We will wait and see.

February 5, 1863

Washington Thursday Feb'y 5th 1863.

I hardly know how to fill out a page tonight. It has been cold and Stormy having snowed most of the day, tonight the snow is more like rain and the weather has moderated. I was on the Ave after I left the office and bought a pair of rubbers, then came home directly to my room, which I have not left since except for dinner. I have been writing over a couple pages of foolscap upon the Analogy which exists between a Nation and an individual. In a Nation the whole Territory may be compared to the body of a man. The inhabitants are the living Soul. The Mountains are the Bones. The Rivers and roads and canals are the veins and arteries. Trade and Commerce is the Blood which circulates through them & the

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industrial system of the Nation is the real nutriment which gives life and vigor to the body giving to the Blood its sustaining and life giving principle. I pursued the comparison much farther. I also wrote some verses for Julias Album should they suit her. There is no news worthy of notice today. I have been in the office as usual. The concert proved a "Sell" to the Committee. Ostrander deceived them in every way. But has now time to repent as he was arrested before the concert yesterday for obtaining property by false pretenses and is now in Jail. He has been a Clerk in the Land office for something over a year. But his game is up now. Past 11 o'clock.

February 6, 1863

Friday Feb'y 6th 1863.

This day has passed off very quietly. Some rebel stories floating about tonight to the effect that there had been a "raid" on Aquia Creek, that all our immense Stores had been Burned &c. "Secesh" has been quite jubilant about it this evening. It is, of course, all "bosh." I stoped at Charleys this evening and staid an hour. The baby is getting quite interesting. It is so good natured and quiet, drinks a quart of milk a day, sucks her thumb when she is asleep and grows fat. I went from there to the rooms of Rev Mr Read (at Dr Munsons) and staid there an hour. They (He and his wife) are very friendly and confide their secrets to me. He wants the Agency of the NY S[oldiers]. R[elief]. Ass[ociatio]n to travel through the State. I will do what I can to get it for him as I think him a "sterling" man. Mrs R also attends the NY "Rooms" and deals out to the soldiers such articles as are sent to the Asson for them. She has spent her whole time for months past and should be paid in some way. I called down below upon Dr Munson & family. They always have so much to say that I can never get away from them. They would like much to have me come back there to Board, perhaps I may sometime. They told me all their secrets about Ostrander (which I knew before). The old Lady talked all the time. "Teal" was wide awake. The fat one slept and snored. The Doct dozed. I did not get released till ½ past 10.

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February 7, 1863

Washington Saturday Feb'y 7th 1863.

This has been a bright and beautiful day overhead, some mud under foot. I was quite surprised to receive a visit at the office today from Genl Havelock dressed in full uniform. He came into the Hall and enquired for me and his presence created quite a stir as he was not known. I escorted him about the building and showed him the Libraries, and in the upper Hall or "Museum" explained to him the operation of the Revolving Fort (Timbys) with which he was much pleased. His brilliant English Uniform (of a Cavalry officer) attracted much attention in the office and many were the questions of "who was he?" after he had left. After office hours I went on to the Ave and visited the Book Stores, Taylors & Philps, where they know me. I frequently sit there and read for hours in any book I please to take up. It is not a bad place to pick up information at a cheap rate. Books are so awful dear that I cannot afford to purchase. I was at Willards awhile, talked an hour with Mr Sweatland, the N.Y. State Agent for the Soldiers. Saw Bouge, he wanted to borrow a dollar, did not get it. He appeared to be nearly sober, feared he wanted to get drunk. Called at A B Williams. Mrs W is very sick, do not think she can recover. Saw Mrs Tice there from Palmyra, had seen her in Lyons before. She was Miss Armington. Got back to my room before 9 o'clock.

February 8, 1863

Washington Sunday Feb'y 8th 1863.

A most delightful bright and warm day but wet and muddy crossings. I attended divine service at the Capitol again this morning, heard Dr Stockton. He was not as tedious as usual. There was a very good congregation present, a large portion Strangers. They go to the Capitol for the novelty of the thing. An elegant piece of Sculpture, a full length life size Washington in beautiful marble, stands fronting Leutzes picture of the Emigrants. It

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is by Powers and as a work of art it seems could hardly be excelled. The chiseling is most exquisite. Went up to the "Stone Hospital" again today after dinner. Robert White who I saw last Sunday has had his foot taken off just above the ankle. He appears to be doing well. Another NY Soldier, Rufus Chandler from Livingston Co. NY, with whom I talked that day some time died the next day. Rogers from Conn. 27th Regt, a Student at Yale, was in the fight at Fredericksburgh, got hit four times by bullets, twice wounded severely and twice slightly. I was there about two hours talking with the "boys." I walked up there and back making a walk of near six miles altogether today. Met Edd Dickerson this morning. Alex Tower is still a prisoner in Richmond but will be back soon as arrangements have been made for the Exchange of the Sutlers. I have been over to Charleys an hour or two this evening. They all seem very well and very fond of each other and of the baby which is very pretty. The weather is warm enough to sit without a fire. It is past eleven and I must to bed.

February 9, 1863

Washington Monday Feb'y 9th 1863

Another delightful bright warm day and there does not seem to be any particular excitement about anything just now. It is a fact (altho the "papers" say nothing about it) that the "Army of the Potomac" is on the move. One whole grand Division has gone on board Transports and down the River from Aquia Creek. Their destination is presumed to be North Carolina. In Tennessee and the S. West matters remain pretty quiet. Some skirmishing in which the Rebels usually get the worst of it. At Vicksburgh an immense number of men are now at work on the Canal or "Cutoff" opposite the City which is designed to leave the City inland four or five miles. This may be a cheaper way of opening the Miss River than taking the City as it is said to be very strongly fortified and defended by 60,000 men. There was a great crowd on "the Ave" this afternoon. I was in Taylors Book Store an hour reading "Ruttan." Was also in "Ascension Hospital" to see the soldiers. Met Mr Green from Lyons in the Pat office today. Sent Hon Jas C Smith Catalogue & Circular

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from the Agricultural Dept. Got a pat office Report for myself. I am told that my name was proposed and I was unanimously voted in as a member of the "Union League," a secret society in this City. I think I will go and be initiated. The "Lodge" meets on Thursday nights. It is composed of the first Gentlemen in Washington.

February 10, 1863

Washington Tuesday Feb 10th 1863

The weather continues pleasant, and everything quiet as far as the War is concerned. The scene seems just now to be shifting to the South, and we are expecting every day to hear that Savannah or Charleston has been attacked, perhaps both. Genl Fosters N.C. Army has gone to S.C. The "Army of the Potomac" seems to be dropping to pieces, a large portion having gone down the Potomac and and [sic] another portion have come up this way. Today I have been engaged in examining copies of the Report of the Indian Agent for the Sioux Tribes on the borders of Minnesota, the Scene of the late Indian Murders. The Report is quite interesting. I went from the office on to the Ave and staid at the Book Stores till near dinner time, bought Thos. Buchanan Reads "Wagoner of the Alleghanies" and some Photographs for Julia. I read a good deal at the Book Stores and buy a little. But is usual for gentlemen of anything of a studious turn to frequent the Book Stores here and sit and read any book they choose for hours. I have not been out since dinner but reading the evening papers and the new Book. Capt Thornett came in and sat an hour in my room and smoked his segar. I take care of Maj Austins NY paper during his absence from the house and also "take care" to read it. Rcd letter from wife today, all well.

February 11, 1863

Washington Wednesday Feby 11. 1863

Fears are now frequently expressed that we are to have trouble in the free states. There seems to exist a great number of peace men, men who are willing to make peace on any

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terms "only stop the war." The "Knights of the Golden Circle" (K.G.C.) a secret Society are said to have become numerous and are ready to overthrow the Govt if necessary to make Peace. "Union Leage" Secret Societies are now forming all over the Country to counteract the K.G.Cs. I intend to Join the U.L. tomorrow night. It is intended to have the unconditional Union Men in this City and all over the Country ready (at a moments warning, "armed to the teeth") for any emergency. The action of some of the State Legislatures, and conventions of the People, and the tone of some of the Interior Papers is somewhat alarming. There is as this State of things prove a great lack of confidence in those at the head of the Govt and who manage the War. But a Victory or two will put things "all right." No Separation. "No peace" for ten years to come, unless those in rebellion are willing to lay down their arms and return to their duty as Loyal Citizens, so say I.

There is no particular news today. Some skirmishing in Tennessee, the papers say 600 rebels taken prisoners. Important news expected from Charleston & Savannah, our "Iron Clads" are there. Recd letter from home, no important news in it. The question is do we want the House we occupy another year? from 1st May? I think we will have to say yes.

February 12, 1863

Thursday Feb'y 12th 1863

No very strange event has happened today that I am aware of. Everything seems moveing along Smoothly here in the City. But there is a feeling of fear and distrust in reference to the threatening aspect of affairs in the North West. I am hopefull of the Armies in the field and of the Navy. I have confidence that we shall soon hear of important successes. What we want and what we must have is Victories. That will "squelch" out all this disloyal clamor at the North. I this evening joined the "Union Leage." The object is to defend the Union, Govt, and free institutions of the Country, and to Thwart the plots and conspiracies of Traitors everywhere. Our Motto is in Substance "The Union, it Must and shall be preserved." That was Jacksons sentiment and he is now one of the Titular Saints of all

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Loyal men. I was in the office as usual all day but do not labor very hard, have plenty of time to read the Papers and talk to my frequent visitors at my room. I make calls myself on my friends in different parts of the building, and sometimes leave and go away with a Soldier up to the pay office or the Medical Directors, or Hospitals. I must go over to the Parole Camp soon. I have a call from four different soldiers who have been prisoners in Richmond, and want assistance. I got back to my Room at ½ past 10. Got acquainted with a good many gentlemen, Robt Dale Owen among the number.

February 13, 1863

Washington Friday Feb'y 13th 1863.

A Beautiful bright pleasant day with the atmosphere so pure and braceing that I could not resist its influence but took a long walk before going to the office. We have so much wet foggy weather lately that the change is doubly welcome. We have warm (or rather Mild) pleasant days but not till today has it seemed a real luxury to inhale the air. I have not been on the Ave today. On leaving the office at 3 o'clock I took another long walk before dinner up to the "Stone Hospital" being three miles up and back. My little hero Robt White who lost his foot recently, or rather had it amputated recently, I found doing extremely well to all appearances. I sent him (the first of the week) caned fruit and currant wine which he was very grateful for. This evening I have spent with Mr & Mrs Schram on this Street (12th) a couple of squares above me. His Mother is spending a few days with him, a very fine looking lady of about forty eight years with long silver curls. She is a quaker lady and and [sic] a fine specimen of the Class. There is no particular news in the papers today. Tom Thumb and his wife are just now creating more excitement in the City than anybody else, a married couple 28 inches high, and both together weighing some 70 lbs. There are many other "notables" in town. The Country Bank interest is well represented.

February 14, 1863

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Washington Saturday Feb 14th 1863.

Another fine day but a little cooler than yesterday. Mrs Schram of Pok'eepsie called on me today at the office and as Mr Newton is a quaker, she "thee" and "thoud" him out of all the seeds, bulbs, and Plants she desired. Lieut Bemis also called on me. I was on the Ave after leaving the office an hour or two reading in Book Store and looking over an old Library of Books for sale tonight at McGuires Auction Rooms. This is a great City for old books and sometimes rare old Books can be obtained cheap. Old private Libraries are sent over from England every year and sold at auction. I do not consider myself Safe at a Book Auction as it is very difficult for me to resist the temptation to buy more than I can afford. I used to take pride having a select Library of books in my house. But I have been shifting about so much for the past dozen years that my books have got scattered a good deal, but I think that I have got now as many as I ever had, perhaps more. Genl "Tom Thumb" and Lady have left the City. Genl Fremont is here requesting a Command again. No War news of any importance, all is quiet as yet. I called at Mr Schrams again tonight, his Mother expects to leave for home Monday. Called also at Maj Williamss. Mrs W. is geting better. Aleck Tower has been released from Richmond, was here, went home yesterday.

February 15, 1863

Washington Sunday Feb'y 15 1863.

Went to the Senate Chamber this morning at 11. and heard G B Cheever the celebrated radical Abolitionist preach, or rather declaim against Slavery. I never heard the man before and had some curiosity to hear what he would say. The Senate Chamber was crowded. I did not leave the Capitol till I had visited the other chamber and taken a look at the "Westward Emigrants" of Leutze, and the marble Washington. I did not know last Sunday (when I first saw it) that it was taken from Baton Rouge L.a. and sent here as a trophy. It is realy too beautiful a thing to be owned by any but Loyal citizens. The Rebels have no

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business with Washington, at least until they return to their duty as good citizens of the Union. It rained by spells all night and it has been a misty disagreeable day, and went over and spent the afternoon at Charleys taking dinner with them. Came back to my room about dark, and did not go out again. Doct Smith held service in his church today for the first time since it was vacated by the soldiers. The number of soldiers in the Hospitals in the City has greatly decreased and there is now 15,000 vacant beds in them, in and around the City. Another great Battle may fill them.

February 16, 1863

Monday Feb 16th 1863

A beautiful day, bright and mild. No particular news or excitement in the City. Arrests are made almost every day of those acting as Spies, or engaged in contraband trade. Mr Nairn a prominent and wealthy Drugist was recently arrested for purchasing medicines for the Rebels. He is now in the old Capitol. A Clergyman tore down a U.S. Flag from a church in Baltimore yesterday. He was immediately arrested and will be punished. His name is Dashiell, a methodist.

Genl Butler hung a man in New Orleans for doing the same thing. Grant has cut the Levees of the Miss above Vicksburgh and intends to cut them off by water. That is the great point of interest now. The largest rebel Army now in the field is said to be there for its defense. A part of the Army of the Potomac has gone to N. Carolina but Genl Hooker has still a large Army opposite Fredericksburgh V.A. Charleston & Savannah are both threatened and will be soon attacked by our "Iron Clads" in connection with a land force. I called at Doct Munsons this evening and staid an hour or two. Mrs Mary Pruyn, Mrs McDowell, and another lady, all from Albany, were there. Waited upon two of them over to the "Herndon House" where they are staying. Mis Pruyn is staying with Mrs Munson her relative. Got a very nice letter from Julia today. Wrote to "Holly."

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February 17, 1863

Washington Tuesday Feb. 17th 1863.

Today we have a real old "fashioned Snow Storm." It has snowed all day. The weather is mild and the snow melted fast, but it is about seven inches deep tonight on a level, a greater body of snow than we have had this three or four years. The side walks are deep with "spash" and I have not been out since I came in about four o'clock. I went from the office on to 7th St and staid an hour at Ballentines Book Store looking over the books, Maps, and Photographs, did not buy anything. Came to my room with feet somewhat wet, but a good fire soon made "all right." There is no news of any fighting just now. The weather and the roads are not favorable for such amusements on land. An important Bill passed the Senate last night to enrol the whole Militia force of the U.S. No one exempt but governors of States, all between 20 & 45 included and liable to draft. It passed unanimously. The Rebellion is to be put down at any cost of men and money. I am over "forty five" by 12 years but am not realy older than many men of fifty. I may volunteer yet if necessary. I am a volunteer now. The members of the "Union League" are all "Minute Men" "armed to the teeth" and always ready. We have pledged our lives in support of the Govt. Let Traitors South or North beware. There will soon be an irresistable power in the land, ready for all emergencies. I think myself that the Rebellion is near crushed out now than it has been for six months past.

February 18, 1863

Washington Wednesday Feb. 18th 1863.

It has been about as unpleasant as it is possible for it to be today. It has rained nearly all day, and the snow and water on the pavement is nearly over shoes in depth. I have kept very close only going from my room to the office and back except this evening I have spent an hour or two over with Chas and "Sallie" on 9th. Everything seems to remain quiet as

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it regards the War. But Union men feel more confident and in better spirits than they did a month ago. The opposition and traitorous movement North does not look so Serious as it did. The agitators seem somewhat frightened at their own doings. Much opposition has been made to the raising of Negro Regiments for the War. But if the Negroes will fight let us have them. Many say that the war has become an "Abolition War," "a War against Slavery" instead of a War for the preservation of the Union. There are two kinds of Abolitionists just now. One kind perhaps make the abolition of Slavery the prime object and care more for that than they do for the Union. The other kind care much less about Slavery, in fact consider it but an incidental question compared with the Union, and are willing to abolish it, if that will abolish the rebellion and in that spirit they "go in" for the Presidents Proclamation of freedom. I go for using all the means that God and Nature has put into our hands to crush out the Rebellion. The moral effect of the proclamation will help us much throughout the world, and that may be its greatest advantage.

February 19, 1863

Washington Thursday Feb. 19th 1863.

Another of the most unpleasant days of the season, rain or mist all day and plenty of mud in the streets. I have had but little to do in the office today. I have read a part of the time, and written a letter to Julia sending her also by mail T Buchanan Reads new Poem, "The Wagoner of the Alleghanys" (postage 13 cents). I went on to the Ave after leaving the office. Called at Thompsons on 15th st, dealer in old Books Jewelry &c. I found him a rank Rebel and think his shop a sort of rendezvous for that class of men. He is an Englishman. I attended the Lodge of the Union League. It is increasing in numbers rapidly here and all over the U.S. The "papers" contain no news tonight of any importance. The falling rain and the melting snows at the West will raise the Rivers so that our Gun Boats will be able to go nearly all over the South and it will also greatly favor Genl Grant in his efforts to capture Vicksburgh. That is the great point of interest just now. The high water will help the Canal project which is to cut off Vicksburgh and leave it some four miles inland. We are looking

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also to Charleston and Savannah for news. Our "Iron Clads" are gathering at Port Royal, and we shall soon hear from them. Gold is today quoted 164, the highest yet. It is said the Currency Bill is in doubt in the "House." The Bank Nabobs are too strong for the peoples interest.

February 20, 1863

Washington Friday Feb. 20th 1863.

Rather a dull day in the office there being but little to do on the Examining Board. I have spent most of the day reading old Saml Pepys Diary written two hundred years ago during Charles 2nds reign. It gives a not very flattering picture of English society at that time. In looking at that age and then at the present, any one must acknowledge that great progress has been made in the morals of refined Society. One is surprised at the conduct which was tolerated in that day, especialy in and around the Court. Pepys himself occupied a responsible position under the Crown, something nearly equivalent to the Sec'y of our Navy. The old Villin was constantly accepting bribes for he notes down all He did and all his thoughts from day to day. He casts up his accounts at the end of every month and piously blesses God that he is getting on in the world so well, the hypocrite, full of pride and vanity and an ardent admirer of the Ladies. I am not through with him yet. There is no news today worthy of note. The French have invaded Mexico and from all accounts are getting roughly handled there. It is thought by many that we will be at War with France soon. Most assuredly we shall if she intervenes in our war with the south or acknowledges its Independance. I have spent most of the evening over to Charleys (or the Doctors) as he is called. Played a game of chess with him, in my room at 10.

February 21, 1863

Washington Saturday Feb. 21st 1863.

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It was a mild pleasant morning but is quite cold tonight with indications of more snow. In the office all day as usual. Not much to do, read the news papers and old "Pepys Diary" about half the day, left him in the midst of the "great Plague in London" summer of 1664, more than a thousand per day dying of it. When it first broke out in a house, the House was closed and a red cross was Marked upon the door, and "The Lord have Mercy on us" written under it. He was an Educated man but like every body else at that time was really ignorant and believed in charms. He was silly enough to carry a hares foot in his pocket to protect himself from the cholic to which complaint he was subject. I have been this evening to hear Mrs Swishelm Lecture upon the Indian Murders in Minnesota last summer. She is a small delicate looking woman. She has been a very beautiful woman and may still be called beautiful for a lady over 40 or 45 yrs. She had a crowded House and her lecture was fine and quite characteristic of the woman. It had many very fine hits in it at rebels of the South and sympathisers at the North as well as at the "Noble Indian" "as the puling sentimentalists of East call him." She was frequently applauded and sometimes most vociferously. I took a walk on the Ave after leaving the office before dinner. The Ave seemed to be more crowded than ever. The "Currency Bill" pass the "house" last night, good so far.

February 22, 1863

Sunday Feb 22nd 1863.

Another severe Snow Storm. All day long has it fell and tonight it is deeper than it has been before this winter and it is cold and freezing. Bitter weather for the poor soldiers in the field, as well as for the poor horses in the service. I have not been to church nor hardly out of the house today, have been reading and writing most of the day. Capt Thornett has spent an hour or so in my room, he has given me a little of his history. He is a man near forty and has been a long time in the British Army. Served in India and through the Crimean War. His Father was a Naval officer, his Mother is still living in "Kent," spends half the year in France with a daughter. At the age of 16 she was in Brussels during the

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Battle of Waterloo and was at the Celebrated Ball described by Byron, "There was a sound of revelry at night." I obtained the Sunday morning Chronicle but there is no news. We are waiting, waiting. We must have Victories. I shall be much disappointed and pained if we do not. It seems now as tho a defeat would be ruin to us. Vicksburg, Savannah, Charleston & Wilmington are all invested by our troops. Rosecrans has 100,000 men in Tenn. and Hooker must have near that number near Fredericksburgh V.A. O for pleasant dry weather, and good roads.

February 23, 1863

Washington Monday Feb 23rd 1863

A cold winters day, but thawing in the sun. Some faint attempts at sleighing in the streets and some jingling of bells which sounds like old times. The like has not been heard here for the past two or three years. But the snow will all be gone in a day or two and then it will be mud. The dearth of news still continues. Nothing from the armies today. Genl Hooker is in town tonight perhaps concocting some scheme to bring the rebels to grief. I think the weather for the past two or three days has been severe enough to bring his own army to "grief." But I have great faith in Hooker. I have spent most of the evening with Genl Havelock at his room. He gave me his "cart de visite" for Julia and showed me his Medals and his Commission from the Sultan, presented in a silk bag with a large Medal. Took wine with him and sat and conversed for two hours. Capt Thornett called with me. Rcd a letter from my dear Sister Harriet Northam, which gave me much pleasure. Also rcd one from Home & from "Willie." Sent ten photographs by mail to Julia, postage two cents. Shall be glad if they arrive in safty. Business dull in the office, plenty of time to read and write letters. Spent an hour at Charleys after I left the office, baby improves every day.

February 24, 1863

Tuesday Feb. 24th 1863

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Pleasant overhead and snow and water under foot and freezing tonight. Went down to Addis Photograph Gallery this morning and sat for my picture. Julia insists upon having my Photograph in her Album. Capt Henry Androus of 17th Mich called on me today. He is a fine looking officer, has been in five or six Battles and not been wounded. He has been home and is now on his way to join his Reg't in "front." Called at Maj Williams this evening. Mrs W. is getting much better and is now up all day. Was in to Willards an hour talking with friends. Just before nine, I called at Doct Munsons from whence I did not make my escape till eleven. They had a room full of Company as usual. The three Albany ladies are still there, had a long conversation with Mrs Pruyn discussing Morals and Religion. We agreed in the main, especialy upon the point, that Society is responsible for the Morals of the Community, and that it is Society, the public, that is to blame and guilty of most of the crimes Committed, at least partakers of the guilt. I wrote to Wife today, sent Julia two more Photographs, Genl Havelocks and Henry Androus. I think her Album must be full by this time. I have tonight written a letter to Sis Northam in answer to hers of yesterday.

February 25, 1863

Washington Wednesday Feb. 25th 1863.

A bright pleasant day but the Snow has mostly melted and the thin mortar composition lies from four to eight inches in depth in the streets. Little boys are at the crossings broom in hand trying to keep back the flood from a narrow path and saying "Please give me a penny." I fear they do not get many, few will give a five cent "shin plaster" or "stamp" and cents are scarce which is bad for the boys. Went up to the Capitol after leaving office and the "Enrolment Bill" passed while I was in the chamber of the "House." It now only needs the signature of the President to become a law. Wrote to my sister Harriet and to [S Abel?] today. Sent Agricultural Reports to Capt Budd Sag H[arbor]. and to Dr Ford of Chemung NY. This evening I have been to hear the celebrated Mason-Jones, the Irish Orator. He was a fine speaker and all that I had expected. He spoke about one hour and a half without the least hesitation and without a note or scrap of writing. His subject was

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“John Philpot Curran.” The House (Willards Hall) was crowded. Four Soldiers have called upon me today for assistance in getting their discharge papers, or pay, or for clothing. A stream of discharged soldiers has been flowing through the R Road Depot for the past two months, from one to two hundred pr day. It is astonishing how prevalent the heart disease has become since this war began. I think it should in most cases be called the “faint heart” disease.

February 26, 1863

Washington Thursday Feb 26th 1863

O Mud Mud. I have waded over crossings today where composition was at least six inches deep and of the consistency of thick cream. The snow has all melted and the water is mostly still on the surface of the ground. I had letters from Julia and the boys this evening, and I wrote to my Sister Androus today. I am having my old Indigo blue cloak made into an over coat. I think the Tailor has stolen about one third of the cloth, for there is nothing left to speak of. I hardly know whether to submit to the cheat, or have a quarrel with him. There is a good deal of confusion tonight down below. It is past eleven, and the loud talk still keeps up. I think there must be whiskey there, for that is the origin of about all the disorders in the City. I must leave this house by Monday next. It is reported tonight that Genl Siegel has resigned. I hope the report is not true as such an officer cannot well be spared at this time. I attended the League meeting this evening. There was a large attendance and much enthusiasm. “Honest Truman Smith” of Conn. was initiated and afterwards made a speech query, Is any old politician (as he is) entitled to the prefix “honest” to his name? The papers contain no particular news today. Gold 168. Yesterday 172.

February 27, 1863

Washington Friday Feb. 27th 1863.

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The rain fell in torrents last night and increased the depth of the flowing mud in the streets. It has been a dull day. Very little news stirring, nothing of a decisive character. Congress will adjourn next Wednesday and it will have done a good deal of important work this Session. The Conscription Bill and the Finance Bill embracing the uniform Currency bill are of a most important Nature. Elections soon come off in Conn. & N Hampshire and some other states and the disunionists or "Copperhead" Democracy are straining every nerve to carry them. Should they succeed many good men apprehend that forced resistance will be made in such States to any further raising of troops should they be called for. Much depends upon the organization of "Union Leagues" in combining the loyal strength in those States to act in concert against their Enemies. This is a trying time for our Country. Enemies in front with arms in their hands, and Enemies in the rear giving those Enemies comfort and support. God grant we get safely delivered from the perils which surround us. That our Country may survive her present trials, and emerge from the fiery ordeal, more glorious than ever & purified, though baptised anew in the blood of her choicest sons.

February 28, 1863

Saturday Feb 28th 1863

There does not seem to be anything in particular to note down. We hear of some skirmishing with the rebels at various points but nothing of much consequence. At Vicksburgh, where perhaps the largest forces are opposed to each other, I think the plan is not to attack the Batteries but to invest the place and cut off their supplies and starve them out. No attack on Charleston or Savannah yet. There appears to be some trouble with the Commanders as to precedence or rank. Genls Hunter and Foster are the officers. This question of rank together with the jealousy existing between West Point officers and Volunteers has led to an infinite deal of trouble during this war. Some Genls have been so unpatriotic as to wish to see some other Genl defeated rather than assist him to be successful. For this and for acting in this way, Fitz John Porter was cashiered and dismissed the service. He was a Maj Genl. There are now about twenty Indians

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here from the western borders of Minnesota holding a talk with the Prest and the Indian Commissioner. I think there is but little sympathy for them anywhere since the Massacre up there last summer. Mrs Swisshelm stated that not less than fifteen hundred men, women, and children fell victims. She lives in St Cloud Min. It is said that the Indians were instigated by the Southern rebels to rise on the whites.

March 1, 1863

Washington Sunday March 1st 1863

Old winter has taken his flight and left us deep in mud and water and a dense fog. But we will now look for clear weather and the usual drying winds of March will soon render the roads passable and the armies can move. Armies did I say? (for I sometimes forget that we are in the midst of a gigantic War, and following the usual routine of daily duty I awake as from a dream to realize that fact). Yes, Armies, three or four, each numbering near a hundred thousand, besides tens of thousands of men scattered all over Slavedom. We cannot have at present less than six hundred thousand Soldiers under arms altogether, engaged in sustaining the Union and putting down rebellion. Attended religious Service at the "House" Chamber this morning. After the service John A Fowle and Miss Rumsey (the Singer) were married before the congregation. An Episcopal clergyman performed the Ceremony. After the newly married couple had received the congratulations of their friends a few minutes, the first thing the new wife did was to sing (alone) the "Star Spangled Banner" for the crowd. I spent an hour at A B Williamss with Alexander Tower and his wife Harriet W. that was. Went in the evening to Doct Gurleys church. A Stranger preached. I do wish that Preachers would learn to read.

March 2, 1863

Washington Monday March 2nd 1863.

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With a bright day the spirits of everybody seem to rise and counten[an]ces look brighter than for the last fortnight. I wonder no suicides have been committed, it would have been an excellent time and would not have created much surprise. I got a fine Gold Pen out of "Uncle Sam" today \$2.75 (Silver holder), am writing with it now. I got almost everything in the way of Stationary out of the old gentleman. Rcd letter from my friend J T McKenzie. Glad to learn that traitors are so scarce at the north. Spent part of the evening at Charleys. Mr Lieb & Lady were there, the lady who came home from Boarding School to spend the Holydays, and got married New Years night, unbeknown to her friends. The lady that was reading a novel to her Father during the week previous called the "Missing Bride" (one of Mrs Southworths Novels) and had nearly completed it much to the old Gentlemans gratification when She was herself a "Missing Bride." This was a singular coincidence but litteraly true. We are still waiting for news, little of interest afloat today. No Movement of any moment noticed in the papers. No Movement of myself yet. I do so hate to pack up and take new quarters. I might not suit myself any better, and rooms and boarding houses are scarce yet.

March 3, 1863

Washington Tuesday March 3rd 1863.

A delightful morning but a Snow Storm in the afternoon attended with lightning and thunder. This evening it is all Clear again. No startling news. One of our Gun Boats the Indianola captured by the rebels near Vicksburgh and the "Jacob Bell," a rich China Ship laden with Tea, has been taken by the Florida, one of the Rebel piratical Vessels which has been furnished them by the English. Wrote home today, enclosed Draft for \$50.00, think I shall go Myself in a week or two. I have been this evening down to VanMasters Room and spent an hour or two with him, he is as busy as ever and making money fast. Was in at Willards awhile, met my old friend G H Corliss of Providence R.I. No one that comes to Washington comes better dressed or bears himself more like a Gentleman than the Engine builder. The present Congress is about expiring. It has passed nearly all the

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very important Bills before it. The Country Banks were a[l]most too much for the friends of Mr Chases Finance Bill. Their opposition is considered very Selfish and unpatriotic, and from New England too. But I think that Mr Chase will succeed in his measures notwithstanding. Soldiers call upon me every day for clothing &c. I go down to the NY Relief rooms with them very frequently for flannels, dried fruits, jellies &c.

March 4, 1863

Wednesday March 4th 1863.

Congress adjourned at twelve O'clock today. The Senate is again convened by proclamation of the Prest for further Confirmations and perhaps for counsel and as advisors of the Prest. Public affairs look rather more bright. Mr Chase now has almost unlimited powers for raising money conferred upon him. Not much apprehension is felt now about his being able to carry the war along. The War news is more favorable. Fort McAllister below Savannah has been taken by our troops and "Iron Clads" and that was the Principal defense of Savannah. We shall hear from Charleston very soon. It is reported in the papers that the Rebels have evacuated Vicksburgh after a hard fought Battle. We will know for certain in a day or two. I got some Photographs of myself at Addiss today, the first I have ever had taken as Photographs. I was on the Avenue after office hours. The celebrated Sword recently presented to Genl. Siegel attracts much attention in Jeweler [Semkins?] window. It is a very elegant article. He has just resigned. Genl Halleck to blame for that. Spent an hour at Charleys, a short time in the Hospital, and the bal of the evening with my friends Mr & Mrs Schram at their room very pleasantly. Returned to my room at eleven o'clock.

March 5, 1863

Washington Thursday March 5th 1863.

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We are disappointed today as the report last night of the Capture of Fort McAllister is contradicted today. Still, there is something that is favorable to the Union cause as gold has fallen down to 150, or twenty percent in one day. We will hear news in a day or two, I think. I notice that the Town Elections in N York are going Democratic all over. But that does not indicate disloyalty to the Union, it is more like an expression of want of confidence in the Managers of the war. Very few democrats at the North (I think) would be willing to see the Union divided or that would consent to it without a much longer Struggle. But they do not want to see our Strength frittered away and are willing to rebuke those in power for their inefficiency and blunders. A few Victories will put the matter all right and I have the faith to believe that we shall soon hear of them. I attended the Lodge till nine o'clock and called on Mr Lieb (Profs). Judge Lieb the Uncle was there, his daughter, and Chas and Sallie. The air is quite keen tonight and it freezes quite hard. I called at Dr Munsons this morning. We have a large quantity of Union news papers to send to the Camps and Hospitals. They are sent from NY for distribution, gratis.

March 6, 1863

Washington Friday March 6th 1863.

No news today of any importance from the armies or from the southern coast. We are in a State of great anxiety just now. It seems so important that we should now hear of Victories and I cannot but think that our troops will be successful wherever they strike at the Rebels. We are in a better condition now to strike hard blows than we have ever been before. Our armies now in the field are stronger than ever before, if not as numerous, for they have got rid of the most of the inefficient officers as well as soldiers. The "weak kneed" and the faint hearted have gone been going home by the thousands every week all winter. I have been in the office today as usual. After leaving it I went down on to the Ave, dropped into Bradys Photograph Gallery which is one of the Institutions of Washington. Genl Sumner of the Army was there and I was introduced to him by my friend the Artist Mulvaney and had some conversation with him. He is not as white haired and bearded as the Pictures

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represent him, his hair and beard is a fair iron grey. I told him that I found him a much younger looking officer than I expected, which seemed to please him, as he said he the pictures did not do him justice. I spent an hour at Charleys and then was over to Doct Munsons where I staid an hour more.

March 7, 1863

Washington Saturday March 7th 1863.

Another day has passed and no news to encourage any body. They have had a small fight in Tennessee where three or four of our Regiments were overpowered by superior numbers. All quiet on the Potomac. There is in fact a perfect Blockade of Mud and it is almost impossible to get to the Camps or Hospitals out of the City with anything but a Govt Wagon and & [sic] Six Mule teams. Met Gov Sprague on the Ave, he recognized me at once. When he came on with the first RI troops in June/61 His Head Quarters were almost opposite my room in the Pat office. At that time I became quite well acquainted with him and also Genl (then Col) Burnside. The Gov is now U.S. Senator. I have written Six Soldiers letters today and enclosed Money in five of them, amounting in all to about \$250.00. It was all sent to Mothers or wives, and sent by Express. It has rained nearly all day and the Streets would be worse than they have been heretofore if it were possible. I have been over to Charleys. Eat some oysters and played a game of Chess. They are living in one Room, Cooking, Sleeping, and all, one of tolerable size on the 2nd floor. It is very inconvenient but the best they could do for the time being.

March 8, 1863

Sunday March 8th 1863

Rained again today most of the time and I have kept my room till near night. I went down to Maj Williams and spent an hour and then came back to tea after which I attended religious Services at the Colored Church on 11th st. A white man preach[ed] a very good

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discourse and the services were conducted throughout with as much propriety as is usual in any other church. The singing was not as artistic but quite as melodious. The Church was crowded to excess and it soon became very warm. There was quite a sprinkling of white folks who were there like myself out of curiosity. I could not but remark that nothing occurred in the Sermon or during the exercises to indicate the Color or condition of the audience. The people were very respectably dressed and among the females crinolines were quite as plenty as in other churches. The morning paper contains no news. The Gold Speculators have "caught it" awfully, the article having fallen within the past week from 172 to 150. Mr Chase has almost unlimited power now to control the finances of the Nation and can Issue money (paper) to meet all contingencies likely to occur for the next year, the probability is that "green backs" will be our circulating medium henceforth.

March 9, 1863

Washington Monday March 9th 1863

This has been a fine bright day altho it rained nearly all last night. But the bright Sunshine has brought no very comforting news, rather the Contrary, for last night the Rebels made one of their customary "raids" at Fairfax Court House and gobbled up a Brigadier Genl (Stoughton), a number of other officers and soldiers, and over a hundred horses. Bright soldiers those, officers and all, what vigilant Sentinels they must have had out. About one hundred rebel Cavalry did this thing while a whole Vermont Brigade guarded the place. Considerable strife in the Land office to see who will be appointed at the head of the Examining Board, Mr Eastman of Wisconsin or myself. The subordinates are all for me. We shall know in a day or two who the Commr is for. I have been filling the place for some time. Went to the Hospital after dinner, staid there an hour and then to Charleys an hour. Mr Alcott from NY was there. I wonder if he does not wish she was unmarried. Went from there to Willards. Saw and talked awhile with Col O H Palmer of the 108th. He has resigned and is going home. Called upon Vanma[s]ter and did not get away till half past

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ten o'clock. Do not wish to be out much later than this, "garroters" are about lately. Have \$115.00 soldiers money to send to their friends.

March 10, 1863

Tuesday March 10th 1863

It has snowed and rained the most of the day and been as unpleasant as ever. Maj E P T[aft] came down from the Fort today and called upon me at the office. Staid till near three o'clock and I went down to the Hotel with him where I met "Carrie" Knowles who has been down to visit her husband. Lieut Col Seward was also there. The news boys were crying the evening papers vociferously, "Latest News Capture of Vandorns Rebel Army." Well there is such a report in the papers tonight, but only a report. We shall know more in a day or two about it. At Vicksburgh Genl Grant is fighting the Rebels with Water and threatening to deluge the whole Country by turning the Waters of the Miss River. The papers say that the inhabitants are much alarmed. Outrages in this City are becoming quite frequent. Last night there was one man murdered on P.A. Ave and two robberies in frequented parts of the City in the evening. Men were knocked down in the street & robed. I think I will stay in as I have this evening, but the mud kept me in tonight. I sent off the soldiers money this afternoon and enclosed a good deal more and directed for soldiers while at the Express office. Wrote home & may go home the last of the week.

March 11, 1863

Washington Wednesday March 11th 1863

When I looked out of the window this morning everything was covered with Snow. But it has all disapeared tonight leaving a due quantity of mud in its place. No important events are chronicled in the papers today. In looking ahead a month ago I thought it impossible that a month could pass away without something of great importance taking place. The Capture of Charleston, Savannah, or Vicksburgh seemed among the probabilities or

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attempts that way at least. I suppose our forces are doing what they can and will at least make an attempt direct to Capture Savannah or Charleston soon. I think it is intended to Starve them out at Vicksburgh by cutting off their Supplies and surrounding the City with water. Great crowds still frequent the Ave afternoons and "Shoulder Straps" were quite plenty. The army orders in the morning papers is stirring them up. The sweet delicate looking lads, the ma mas pets who have got on "Straps" through and draw their pay through pa pas influence cannot air their nice uniforms much longer in the streets or parlors of Washington. March into "line" Gentlemen, or a disgraceful dismissal from the army. Called at Charleys and at Doct Munsons this evening. Got to my room at 9. Got letter from Home & from W T Tinsley of Lyons, wants Seeds.

March 12, 1863

Thursday March 12th 1863

A bright pleasant morning but followed by snow and wind, quite cold tonight. Capt Swan came up from the Army and called on me today. Maj E. P. Taft got a furlough to go home and was in one of the Govt offices this morning haveing his papers approved when he fell down in a fit in the office and was insensible for some time. He recovered however after an hour or two and started for home on the 6½ train. The attack was occasioned no doubt by mental excitement on account of dispatch which he had read relating to his little boys sickness together with considerable physical debility. Met Norton Spencer, son of A.O.S., formerly of Lyons. I have not seen him for some years. He was one of McClellans aids on the Peninsula last summer. Also met at the National my old friend A B Dickerson, U.S. Minister to Nicaragua, just returned, had a long conversation with him in reference to that country. He has just been appointed US Marshall of the Northern District of NY. No news of any great importance today. The N.H. Election came off on the 10th, result uncertain. I fear there will be trouble in some of the Northern States on account of the Conscription. It is thought by many that a Draft will be resisted with arms. I think that those who go into that will get into bad business and come to grief.

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March 13, 1863

Washington Friday March 13th 1863.

It has been quite a cold day with Snow in the middle of it and freezing hard tonight. News by the papers that there has been a battle at Yazoo City Miss and that we have taken 7000 Rebels prisoners. I think the Report needs confirmation. No other news of any particular importance today. Most of my time in the office has been occupied with my friends who have called, among whom were Col Sol Bulkley, [L or S?] Short of Buffalo (formerly) now of Phila and Seelye, formerly of [Sodus?], now Syracuse. I have been down to the "National" this evening writing a Specification for Short for a Patent for his "Greek fire." He seems to be making something out of it by furnishing it for filling "Shells" for the Govt. Called today to see Mrs Burch, the owner of the House I am in. She is one of the F.F.Vs and of course "secesh" and was somewhat frightened when I enquired about the property thinking no doubt of the awful "confiscation" act and other penalties which the disloyal have to fear. She did not "let out" any of her rebel Sentiments to me. I called at Charleys also a few minutes. Met Col Close of Fort McDowell at the National. He invited me over to see him at the Fort. I should think him a pretty wide awake officer.

March 14, 1863

Saturday March 14th 1863

News that Vicksburgh is evacuated by the Rebels comes tonight pretty well authenticated. Nothing further from "Yazoo," but we are expecting good news from that section all the time. I am rather in hope that Vicksburgh is not evacuated. I think its Capture by Genl Grant a sure thing and I would like to have the Rebel Army captured too. I really hope they will not be allowed to take away all of the three hundred cannon which they say they have there. The rebels had captured the Gun Boat "Indianola" but blew her up on the approach of a Sham "Iron Clad" which was made out of an old barge and sent floating down the

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River in the night. They are now mourning over it. I have attended to some business today for Mr Short. Went on to the Av'e after leaving the office and purchased a pocket Dictionary. I am frequently bothered and in doubt about my spelling and have had nothing to refer to. I suppose my folks are much disappointed that I am not at home tonight as I presume they expected me. I must go the forepart of the week. I have been quite busy this evening. Called at Charleys, at Doct Munsons & Mr Reeds, [and] Mr Schrams who was not at home and spent most of the evening at Mr Haws on I Street. They are very pleasant people. Got back to my room about 11 o'clock.

March 15, 1863

Washington Sunday March 15th 1863.

I saw today what has of late become quite common here, a Company of thirty or forty Prisoners and refugees from Virginia march through the City under guard to the Provost Marshalls office. The most of them were refugees from Richmond, foreigners, some of them with their families. Some of the party were Virginians fleeing from the Rebel conscription and eight or ten were prisoners taken up as Spies near Fairfax Court House, residents of that neighborhood accused of being Spies or giving information to the Enemy. The refugees from Richmond said it was nearly impossible of laborers to live there, provisions were so dear. The Hotels chgd \$6.00 pr day and coffee and butter were rarely seen on their tables. It was quite pleasant till about noon when it began to hail, and it hails still (10 o'clock) this afternoon. We had for an hour very sharp lightning and very heavy thunder with hail instead of rain. Tonight the ground is covered. I presume it will turn to water and mud tomorrow. I was at Charleys during the thunderstorm. "Sallie" was much frightened. Spent an hour at Maj Williams this evening. No further news from Vicksburgh or the South. Everything looks favorable now for the Union cause. I shall be disappointed much if we do not soon hear of important successes, and that is what we must have.

April 4, 1863

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Washington April 4th (Saturday)

I left Washington on the 16th March on a two weeks leave of absence and spent the time visiting my family at Sag Harbor L.I. I returned the 2nd Inst (Thursday). I had a very pleasant visit and regreted leaving home more than I ever did before. This is a miserable life to live, away from home. I must manage to live with my family and if I stay in Washington we must make it our home here after next Summer. Not much of importance has occurred as regards the War during the past two or three weeks. Matters are very much as they stood when I left here. No decided and important Battles have been fought but considerable skirmishing, and some rather hard fighting, at Port Hudson on the Miss River and quite a success at Sommerset in Kentucky under our Col Gilmore. No movement from Falmouth or on the Rappahanock yet or upon Charleston S.C. that we have as yet heard of, altho an attack is daily expected. I will hereafter note down important events as they occur in regard to the War without confineing myself to a strict diary of events which have no particular interest in themselves. As my absence has broken my Journal I may consider myself more at liberty since the fence is down.

June 22, 1863

Monday June 22nd 1863

I have hardly fulfilled my purpose of noting down "important events as they occur" for many important events have occurred since my last writing. No very important Battle has been fought by the "Army of the Potomac" with the exception of that while Hooker was across the Rappahannock about the first of May. Vicksburg has not yet been captured, but Genl Grant has it closely invested and I think there is no doubt of its capture in a very few days. Genl Banks is also investing Port Hudson with a like prospect of success. There has been much hard fighting at both places and near them. Genl Rosecrantz has remained quiet at Murfreesborough Tenn. the past two months watching Genl Bragg. For the past few days it has been quite exciting times here as the Rebels are again in Maryland and Pennsylvania

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in force. They crossed above Harpers Ferry. They have been to Chambersburgh P.a. and now hold some points in that State and Frederick City, and other places in the Western portion of Maryland. Hookers and Lees armies have been near each other for the past week not far from the old Bull Run Battle ground. There has been much heavy skirmishing between the

Cavalry the past few days and it is supposed that there was a sharp fight yesterday some twenty miles from here in the direction of Bull Run, as heavy guns were heard for some hours in quick succession. A general Battle is expected to occur very soon. They (or rather) we are fortifying Harrisburg P.a. and at Baltimore the Streets are Barricaded and prepared for cavalry "raids." The sick and wounded from the Army of the Potomac were all sent up here when the Army moved from Falmouth, some seven thousand in number filling the Hospitals. But they are being sent North rapidly. Chas goes every day with his train coming back nights. He still runs to Phila. Frank has been here and stayed some weeks. He came in April and returned to Waterloo the forepart of this month, he writes that he was married to Miss Stiles on the 16th Inst. I intend to make a visit home by the first of Agust. My health is good but I am falling off in weight some as I usually do in the summer. I am rooming at Mr Bartletts 379 11 St betn K & L Streets. I Board at Doct Munsons, my old Boarding place. I will endeavor to note down events oftener in future and the "events" are likely to take place.

June 29, 1863

Monday June 29th 1863

The very atmosphere has been full of rumors today in reference to the movements of the rebels in P.a. & Maryland. Yesterday they captured a large wagon train (170 Six Mule Teams) within Ten Miles of this City. The train was on its way To Frederick M.D. The Rebels are probably in Harrisburg by tonight. A people which will refuse to turn out en mass to repel the invader deserves to have its capitol taken, and their Country laid waste.

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If nothing Else will "wake up" the inhabitants I hope that fire and plunder will. Genl Hooker has been superceded and Genl Meade is now in command of the "Army of the Potomac." It is said today that Mr Stanton has been superceded as Sec'y of War by B. F. Butler. I hope it is so. This morning a Squad of Rebels came within six miles of Washington and came near capturing P M Genl Blair as he was coming to the City from his Country residence. They got his horse, which he was riding, he escaped in the woods. A Negro Regt (one thousand Strong) passed through the Av'e yesterday. I never saw a new Regt march better. We are expecting that communication will be cut off[f] (with Baltimore) by tomorrow morning.

October 5, 1863

Monday Oct 5th 1863

Perhaps I might have made it interesting to have continued my diary. But I have been absent some time since my last date, and important events it is true have occured, great Battles have been fought, and great Victories have been won by our arms. The month of July saw our arms victorious everywhere. Vicksburg & Port Hudson on the Miss River were captured. Over 30,000 prisoners were taken in the first and 7000 in the last place. The Very important Battle of Gettysburge in Penn'a was fought on the 3rd July where the Rebels were signaly beaten and Genl Lee driven back into Virginia. No important Battles since that time in V.A. Genls Meade and Lee have been watching each other since but there has been a good deal of Severe skirmishing on the part of the Cavalry. Our Army of the Potomac is now near Culpepper V.A. Our Pickets and those of the Enemy are within speaking distance of each other. A severe Battle was fought about the 11th of last month in East Tennessee

Between the Armies of Genl Rosecrans and Genl Bragg. We lost 10,000 Men killed & Wounded and were repulsed but not defeated. The object of the Rebels was to take Chattanooga which we still hold. The Armies are now near each other in force, another

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Battle there is expected soon. In August Genl Gilmore at Charlston astonished the World by knocking down the Walls of Fort Sumptor at the distance of 2½ miles and by throwing Shells into the City from a distance of 5 miles. He has now got the whole of Morris Island and is engaged preparing Batteries at Cummings Point from which point to Bombard the City with Effect. He took Fort Wagner (on the Island) after the most tremendous Bombardment that any Fort ever Experienced. We are now expecting to hear that he has again opened upon Charlston with "Greek fire" Shells. Mr Short the inventer has been down there for some time past filling Shells with it.

My Family has remained in Sag Harbor since they went there in June last year. I was at home in August last and staid two weeks. The weather was extremely hot all the month of August everywhere and I did not enjoy myself so well on that account. I returned to Washington the 18th of the month. In the months of June and July while the Rebels were in Maryland and P.A. I belonged to the Volunteer Regt of the Interior Department and drilled about every other day expecting to be called out into the Rifle Pitts back of the City every day. But the danger passed away after the Battle of Gettysburgh since which there has not been much drilling by the Employees of the Department. Washington is if possible more crowded than it was last year. It is utterly impossible to get a House to live in if one is wanted and a great many are wanted. People have to Board and pay high. Provisions, fuel &c are very dear, best flour \$12.00, Butter 35.cts, coffee 40., Sugar 16., potatoes \$1.25, peaches \$1.00 per peck, Tomatoes \$2.00 pr B.

Beef 18.cts, Oak wood \$9.00 pr cord, Coal \$10. pr ton &c &c. In August little Jessie died, the first child of my son Charles & Sallie. She was about 10 months old and a very sweet child. She was much loved by Mr & Mrs Woodward and by us all. Mr W provided rather extravagantly for the funeral, attending to everything himself, the coffin (of the finest Rosewood) cost \$45.00. He paid all expenses. It is proposed to have a meeting of all our Brothers and Sisters at Lyons this month. I have had two or three letters upon the subject and my attendance requested. I do not know as I can go. It will take too much time and money. On Saturday last I went down to Alexandria V.A. My good friend Surgeon

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N S Barnes at the Mansion Hospital insisted upon my staying over night with him in the Hospital. The Mansion Hospital is (or was) a large Hotel. The old Braddock House forms a part of it and in that part I slept. It has been built about 120 years and is still in a good state of preservation.

Some of the Stone at the corners were crumbling away or scaling off and with the usual Yankee desire for Relics I brought away some of the pieces. The Streets in Alexandria are Strongly Barricaded with round timbers set in the ground close together and standing about eight feet high with holes for Musketry. I returned to Washington last evening. I visit the Hospitals in the City more or less every week. I go to the Stanton Hospital the most. It is composed [of] Barracks or low wooden buildings on the Square in front of the Douglass Hosp'l. I have taken quite an interest in some of the patients there and visit them frequently, especialy in H W Brown of Lyons and John Peters, both wounded at the Battle of Chancellorsville the 3rd of May last. Brown can just go about on Crutches. Peters has not yet been off his bed, both were wounded in the thigh (compound fracture). Not many live through it. One Rebel Col and about forty other rebel prisoners are there. They all receive the same attention which our own soldiers do in every respect (clothing &c).

October 8, 1863

Thursday Oct 8th 1863

There has hardly ever been so dull a time (for news) as for the past week or two. There seems to be nothing going on in the Military line that we hear of that is worthy of especial notice. But we are expecting to hear of important events at Charlston and at Chattanooga in Tennessee. Another Bombardment of Charlston and another Battle by Rosecrans is daily expected. In the City all is very quiet. It abounds in Theatres and other places of amusement but I have not attended any place of the kind for a long time. I have no taste for spending money that way. I usually take a long walk after leaving the office at 3 o'clock, return to Dinner at 5 o'clock. We usually sit at the table about three quarters of an hour. Col

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Chesters wife and two daughters came yesterday and are now with him at Doct Munsons where I board. I do the honors at one end of the long table carving &c while Mrs Munson sits at the other with her coffee or Tea urn. One of the old

Oct 8th

boarders is an old bachelor, Dr Waters. He is about Sixty years old, is constant at his meals, always gets his morning paper before breakfast and always expects to be asked for the news. He was born her[e] and lives from his money & rents. I take a "pipe" with him occasionally in his room, much to his gratification. Col Chester is also an old boarder there and a man much after my own heart. His lady sits at my right hand betwen me an her husband. She is a very pleasant and sociable lady. Mr Fowle is a new comer from Newark NJ, formerly of Boston. He is Machinist at the Treasury where they have a great deal of very nice machinery for getting up the Treasury notes, fractional currency &c. He put up the geometrical Lathe which engraves the borders & backs of the Bills and all the fine line geometrical & cycloid figures. The Lathe cost five thousand dollars. Fowle is one of the best Mechanics I ever knew, can make anything from a Patent Lever watch to a Steam Engine. He built the most of this Lathe (formerly). Mathimatical and Astronomical Instruments are in his line. He has a beautiful Telescope Rifle of his own make.

Oct 8th

There was a great crowd on the Avenue this afternoon. I went to the Bulletin Boards of two or three of the "Da[i]llies" but could see nothing like news. I called to see Sallie. She is expecting to be confined very soon. Chas has gone today to Carlisle P.a. with Sick Soldiers of the Regular Army, will be back tomorrow if nothing happens. He and his wife are on E St at Miss Bolees Boarding house at \$68.00 pr month for one room and board. Mr Woodward, wife & son are at the same house. Chas thought the price was more than he could afford to pay and Mr Woodward (the Father in law) agreed to pay a portion of it if he would come there and enable them all to live together and sit together at a private

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table. He seems to have taken them into great favor latterly. As he is sick, it may not be a bad thing for them. I am getting up a letter balance combined with a Calendar and pen rack. I called at Woodruffs to see about today. He is making a specimen for me. I have a model which I have made mostly in my room. I intend to get it Patented.

October 11, 1863

Sunday Oct 11th 1863

This has been a delightful day but rather cool. I got up this morning and took a long walk before breakfast. Spent some time in the Stanton Hospital and heard Dr Gurley preach this evening. He gave an interesting account in his Sermon (or remarks) of the Life and Martyrdom of Ignatius Bishop of Antioch, who was thrown to the wild beasts in the Roman Amphitheatre in the year 107. The forrest leaves are changing a little and falling. But there has been no frost of any account and the woods have not assumed that beautiful appearance which is so much admired north at this season of the year. I wrote home today suggesting that if I did not go to Lyons this month that Julia should come here and make me a visit. I think that will suit her quite as well as going to Lyons with me. But it is a little doubtful whether it will suit her mother as well. She is rather fearful of the influence of Washington society and justly so. But I think it would be quite safe for her here with me for a few weeks. Called to see Chas & Sallie, found them in Mr Woodward's room. Staid an hour or so conversing with the old man who was very sociable.

October 19, 1863

Monday October 19th 1863

Not much of pub[li]c interest has ocured for a week past in the field. There has been almost constant skirmishing over the River within from 30 to 60 miles of here. Our army is now near the old Bull Run Battle ground and another general Battle is expected there or near soon. The Election in the States of Penna, Ohio & Iowa came off on Tuesday last the

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13th Inst and resulted in great Union triumphs. The contest was between those who were in favor of putting down the Rebellion at all hazards, for supporting the Administration and carrying on the war, and those who were in open sympathy with the Rebels or in favor of compromising with them and making peace at any rate. The opposition embraced a large share of the old Democratic party who were avowedly in favor of the War, but were willing to embarrass the Administration at a very critical time and whose leaders were too ready to misrepresent the acts of the Govt, and give encouragement to the rebels. The Election in those States has effectually squelched that party for the present.

19th

We hear nothing from Charleston lately. Genl Gilmore I suppose is getting a good ready. The Armies at Chattanooga Tenn seem to be lying idle after their great fight at Chickamauga. The events of this War have draged along much in the same track for the past year, but we have been making constant progress and the present limits of the "C.S.A." are greatly circumscribed, but the Rebels are still powerful in the field and even now or during the past week the cannonade has been frequently heard in and near the City being not more than thirty or forty miles distant. The "Guerrillas" have made their "raids" to within three miles of Alexandria the past week, capturing horses, Sutlers stores &c. It is not expected that this state of things is to last long. Gold is up again to 150, has been recently 155, in the summer it was down to 125. The President has just called for 300,000 Volunteers for three years or the War. The recent Draft for 600,000 has proved I think rather a failure. Not more than 100,000 I believe have been obtained by it or will be for it has not yet been put in force in all the States, but it has done one good thing. It has shown that the Govt is Strong enough to enforce it anywhere.

October 23, 1863

Friday Oct 23rd 1863

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Events are passing of perhaps much importance to the Country, but no Battles of any note have been fought. Lee has retreated back across the Rappahanock. Genl Meade thought he could not follow immediately and has been relieved of the Command of the Army of the Potomac and Genl Sedgwick is now in command. Something was wrong with Genl Rosecrans at Chattanooga (we do not now know exactly why). He has been relieved of the command and Genl Thomas now takes his place. It is said today that Admiral Dahlgreen has been relieved of the command of the fleet before Charleston, so we go. Rcd Letter today from Brother C.R. He went to the family gathering at Lyons which took place on the 9th & 10th Insts. Seven were there and three absent, Bro Lyman, Sister Betsey, and myself. The meeting was noticed in the Lyons Republican which was sent to me. Spent an hour or two at Mr Hartleys last Eve'g. Went to the War Department yesterday for a Soldier in Stanton Hospital (John Peters), great crowd there waiting. I do not like to wait, so I pushed ahead, did my business and came away.

November 18, 1863

Wednesday November 18th 1863

Since my last date I have been Home and Staid eight days, left here the 31st Oct & returned the 10th Inst, brought Julia back with me. She is staying at Mr Hartleys on NY Avenue. Neither Genl Meade or Admiral Dahlgreen have been removed as was reported at that date, they are both still in command. Our Army is now again South of the Rappahannock. There was a Sharp battle at and near "Kellys Ford" in crossing which was a great success for us, our Army took some 2500 prisoners &c. Not much more fighting has taken place at or near Chattanooga but a great Battle is expected soon. We have just heard that Genl Banks has landed and took Fort Brown & Brownsville on the Rio Grande in Texas. It is very pleasant for me to have Julia with me. I call for her and we take long walks visiting the Hospitals or calling on our friends. This evening we called on Mr & Mrs Reynolds and spent an hour. Yesterday we attended the Review of the Invalid Corps at the Presidents. They numbered about 3000. A number of the officers had but one arm and

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many were lame and the men as a general thing looked rather pale and not able to stand much fatigue.

December 2, 1863

Wednesday Dec 2nd 1863

Since my last date Genl Grant has defeated the rebel Army under Bragg at Chattanooga taking Six or seven thousand prisoners and about Sixty cannon. Genl Mead moved South from the Rapahannock last week. He has cut himself loose from all supply trains or Depots from this direction. He has ordered off all Reporters and we know but little about where he is at this date. He has a well appointed Army of Eighty thousand men and took along about twenty days rations for his Army. The object is Richmond. I expect He will fetch up on the James River. Congress meets next Monday and people are flocking to the City in droves. Julia is still at Mr Hartleys and is quite well. She comes into the office nearly every day to see me. I am now suffering from a severe cold owing I presume to the change in temperature. It has been quite cold for a day or two but no Snow as yet and I have seen no ice here until yesterday. The Head of the Statue of Freedom was put on today. The figure now stands complete upon the top of the Dome of the Capitol.

December 3, 1863

Dec 3rd 1863

Today we learn that Mead has fallen back (this way) to this side of the "Rapidan." This creates much disappointment here and the general opinion is that Genl Mead is incompetant. But the whole policy of the forward movement is not publicly understood. Congressmen are now flocking to the City and stowing themselves away the best they can. High prices are paid by them for convenient rooms. \$100 pr month is not unusual. There is no news today from Tennessee of importance. Burnside at last accounts from him was at Knoxville besieged by a rebel Army under Genl Longstreet, but in no great danger

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of being Captured. The Rebels hold about 13000 of our soldiers prisoner in Richmond and from all accounts are literally starving them to death. The Rebel Authorities have recently consented that our Govt may send them food and clothing. Exchanges have ceased. They refuse to give up negro prisoners which they have taken, and our Govt insist that they shall. We have now about forty thousand rebel prisoners on hand. The general opinion is that they have sold the negroes, or hung them. They have probably done both.

December 16, 1863

Wednesday Dec 16th 1863

The "Army of the potomac" is virtually in Winter quarters. The roads are so bad in Virginia now that heavy Artillery cannot move. Genl Mead is still in com[ma]nd of the Army and it is generally conceded that He was not to blame in falling back under the circumstances. Longstreets army were compelled to retreat from before Knoxville Tenn. From what we can learn from rebel papers, there is a general despondency throughout the Rebel states. But they have still powerful armies in the field and still seem determined to fight it out. Their leaders are desperate. They know that there is but three things for them, succeed, run, or hang. No amnesty will be granted them. Everything looks well in Tennessee and our army in Western Texas has been successful so far. Matters at Charleston remain without much change. Genl Gilmore keeps up the bombardment of the Forts and treats the inhabitants of the City to a few shells each day. Fort Sumpter is about demolished but is not yet in our possession. It is thought that Louisiana, Arkansaw & Tennessee will be represented in this congress this winter.

Dec 16th continued.

Today I have been in the Genl Land office as usual preparing the Agricultural Land Scrip for Issue. Some of the States have got their Scrip already. I am now at work on Maine. That state gets Two hundred and eighty thousand acres. It is distributed according [to] congressional representation. New York gets near a million acres. It is issued to the States

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in Scrip each for 160 acres and which are much like a Land Warrant. Julia and Miss Hartley called at the office at half past two today and I went out with them and walked on the Avenue awhile and then we went up to the Stanton Hospital and went through the Wards. The soldiers expect to see me there as often as once a week and are pleased to see the ladies. Some there have lain six months on their beds and their wounds are not healed yet. Such a one is John Peters of the 115th P.a. Regt. There are a number of rebels in the Hospital who receive the same attention as our own soldiers. Some of them are grievously wounded, some have died there. All the Hospitals have more or less of them but they are sent to the Lincoln Hospital as soon as they become convalescent.

December 19, 1863

Saturday Dec. 19th 1863

I am still rooming at Mr Bartle[tt]s 379 11th St where I take my breakfast at 8 o'clock a.m. I dine at Doct Munsons 442 9th st at 5 o'clock. My room, board, & fuel costs me about \$1.00 pr day. I furnish my own fuel and burn wood which is now \$12.00 pr cord ready for the stove, hard coal is \$14.00 pr ton, and would be the cheapest if I wanted a constant fire. But I rarely make a fire in the morning preferring the cold air. Sleep with my window open and bathe in cold water about every other morning. I never sleep in anything which I have worn during the day, but change my flannel as well as my linnen. I have great faith in fresh air and well aired clothing, cold water and the flesh brush, but I use the Turkish Bathing Towel now which is about the same thing for the skin. I usually come to my room early in the evening (unless I have some engagement) and read or write, or perhaps draw some Draft till about eleven o'clock. Get up betwen six and seven in the morning. Sleep well, Eat well, and am quite healthy.

December 20, 1863

Sunday Dec. 20th 1863.

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Went to the Capitol this morning at 11 o'ck and heard Rev John Lord (the Lecturer) preach, subject the "Sorrows of Knowledge," took his text from Solomon, or Ecclesiastes, 1 chapter last verse, "For in much wisdom is much grief and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow." He dwelt upon the imperfections of men dissecting every Class, laying bare their motives of action, their pride, Selfishness, dishonesty, ingratitude, hypocrisy, &c, remarking that he who pandered to popular sentiment without reference to principle would be most popular. That the meanest and most dishonest men made the most money. And showing that the more knowledge a man got of the world the more he became disgusted with it. What we call science was but unsettled opinions, and the deeper we got the more we saw our own ignorance and discovered how unsatisfactory were our deepest studies. Knowing all this of the world and its pursuits, knowing its sorrows, its bereavements, its disappointments, the inference was that nothing but a higher life, a higher aim, could satisfy the mind. A knowledge of the world led to sorrow of the heart. A knowledge of God only led to happiness. I do not quote his language. The discourse was the most powerful I ever heard.

Sunday Dec 20th Continued

Genl John Buford US Cavalry was buried today, he died of Typhoid fever in this City. His funeral was largely attended and was a great Military display reaching at least ½ mile on the Avenue with 12 men in abreast. Six Major Genls were pall bearers, Genls Casey, Sickels, Augur, Hancock, Heintzelman, and Genl Schofield. The coffin was borne to the Hearse by Six cavalry men. His Horse with boots in the Stirrups was let behind the Hearse by two Soldiers. His mullato waiter or bodyservant walked directly behind his dead master and seemed to grieve very much. Genl Buford was considered the best Cavalry Genl we had. He was a Kentuckyan, thirty eight years of age and graduated at West Point in 1848. We have Tea sundays at Doctor Munsons at six o'clock. I called at Chas and staid an hour, then came to my room, wrote a letter to my wife. Tomorrow I must send some books

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to the Boys for Christmas presents. Julia went yesterday up to Col Wellings Camp, 9th Artillery, Fort Sumner. Mrs W. sent for her, she will stay a week or so.

December 22, 1863

Tuesday Decr 22nd 1863

I sent the Books to the Boys yesterday, one to Each costing about \$2.50, and also a head dress for wife which was the handywork of Julia, all by Adams Express, .50cts to NY. I called and spent an hour with Mr Vanmaster at Mrs Wakeleys. Mr James Bashford is still there. Today I have been the same round of official duty. After three O'clock I visited the Stanton Hospital and saw my old friends there. All doing very well. I frequently visit other Hospitals. There is not much that one can do for them now. The Hospitals are so well managed that the soldiers get everything they want. I write letters sometimes for those who cannot write in consequence of their wounds, and sometimes I take their money and "express" it for them to their friends. Sometimes I read to them and always try to cheer them up and make them contented and they are always glad to see me. There is no war news of any importance today. Congress has not got fairly at work yet and will not until after the Holydays. There are crowds of people on the Avenue now afternoons, and at the Hotels all the time.

December 27, 1863

Sunday Decr 27th 1863

Congress has adjourned over until the 5th of Jan'y and many of the Members have gone home to spend the Holydays. Christmas has passed off pleasantly. It was a beautiful bright day on Friday and appeared to be enjoyed by all Classes. I walked up to the Capitol in the forenoon to take a look at the East front. The North Wing East Portico is approaching completion and when finished will be a splendid sight. I should perhaps say when the whole East front is completed, as the South wing is to be finished in the same style, and

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then it is proposed to remove the old East Portico of the Main building and replace it with one projecting forward on a line with the Wings and in the same Style of Architecture. When that is done the East Front will be truly Magnificent. The Dome is nearly finished (outside). The workmen are now removing the scaffolding around the figure of Freedom which surmounts it. The head and shoulders as I can see from my window now project above the scaffold. This week it will all be removed. The great Bronze Door between the old chamber and the new "House" Chamber attracts much attention as a work of Art, it is unsurpassed of its kind.

27th Continued

I made several "calls" on Christmas day but felt rather lonely withall. Julia is at Fort Simmons still staying with Mis Col Welling & Daughter. I spent the evening at my son Chas playing Chess with him. Mr Woodward was in their room part of the evening. "Egg Nog" and cake was plenty. We had a fine Christmas dinner at my boarding house, Dr Munsons. I ought to say my dining house as I only take my dinner there. I breakfast where I room. One of my old friends of the Patent office, Mr Strother, called upon me yesterday at the office. He has just returned from Idaho where he has been mining the past year in the mountains, spending most of his time at "Virginia City." He gives glowing accounts of the gold resources of that region. Were I a few years younger I should be disposed to go back with him in the spring. This is a rainy sunday and I have not been out to church this morning. This afternoon I must visit the Stanton Hospital. I am sorry I did not do so on Christmas, as Mr Stanton (the Secy of War) was there and I would have brot John Peters to his notice and got an order from him to allow of his being mustered as an officer.

27th continued

Yesterday Julia and Miss Jamie Welling came down to the City from the Fort in the Fort Ambulance and popped into my room in the Pat office about noon. Julia had picked up a pet on the way in the shape of a large Newfoundland dog who she said "put his paws

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on the steps of the Carriage and asked to ride looking very tired." They took him in and he was quietly sitting in the Ambulance when I waited on them on their departure. When Julia sat down the dog laid his head on her lap as though she had been his best friend looking up into her face and probably wishing to say, "I am truly grateful for your kindness and wish to be your attendant and defender as long as I live." He was a noble looking fellow but belonged in Georgetown and had strayed from his master who has probably recovered him before this as the girls intended to leave him in G. on their return. Julia only staid in Washington a few minutes, only long enough to call upon me and thank me for her Christmas present which I sent her on that day, a little tortoise shell box to put her breast pin and earrings in.

December 30, 1863

Wednesday Decr 30th 1863

Today the weather has been warm and pleasant, almost too warm for comfort in the Sun. I went down to the Bank to get a Draft to send home today and found it more pleasant to seek the shady side of the street. All are anticipating a pleasant New Year and seem much better prepared to enjoy one now than for the last three or four years. There does not seem to be any movement of the armies now going on. I suppose they are all in Winter quarters with the exception of some Cavalry which are occasionally making "raids" into the enemys country and following up and scattering bands of "guerrillas." These bands consist generally of bad and desperate men who live in or near the scene of their operations, peaceable Farmers (apparently) by day living not far from our lines, and not unfrequently within them, they assemble at night. Join some organized Band which is prowling in the vicinity and cut off any Train or Sutlers wagons which may be undefended. By daylight perhaps they are no where to be found, one half of them

30th Continued

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are back to their Homes and peaceable Farmers again. They seek the bye roads and bye places, or scatter if hotly pursued understanding where to meet again. Washington and Alexandria and in fact the whole country within our lines (and the "Lines" extend perhaps fifty miles back into Virginia at the present time) are full of rebel "sympathisers" who give information as to the starting of Trains of wagons in any direction, how they are guarded, how strongly &c. If the guerrillas consider themselves strong enough they pounce upon the train in some unexpected place, or in the darkness of the night. If they fear immediate pursuit they take the Horses and what they can carry, burn the wagons and are off. After the Battle of Gettysburgh a long rebel train which was fleeing towards the Potomac was captured by our Cavalry. The train was guarded by soldiers at intervals [sic] and was said to be four miles long. Our Cavalry dashed along by the Side of the train killing the guards when they resisted and putting the train into the utmost confusion by putting a revolver at the ear of a mule in each team and shooting him down in his harness.

December 31, 1863

Thursday Decr 31 1863

Alas for yesterdays Sun and balmy air and brilliant atmosphere. It has rained all day and as I now write, the rain decending upon the tin roof sounds like the roar of a Waterfall, but I like that Music. It was always charming to me to hear the rain decending upon the roof or pattering against the window panes. At night it lulls me to sleep like the gentlest music. Altho "soletary and alone" there would be a sense of comfort and contentment sitting by my comfortable fire while the tempest rages without were it not the constant reflection which forces itself upon me that Thousands, ah, hundreds of thousands of our brave soldiers are only rescued by thin canvas from the storm and perhaps lying upon the bare ground. What of the thousands who tonight are doing picket duty miles from the camp where a fire or a tent would but expose them to the enemy and invite the crack of the

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deadly rifle. Of the faithful sentinel pacing his weary round facing the rain or the blinding sleet and chilling wind. I almost feel it selfish and mean to feel comfortable tonight.

Decr 31st Continued.

The old year is drawing to his end bedewed with tears and uttering sounds of sorrow in the darkness and gloom of the night. On such a night Ossian would have heard ghosts shrieking through the air. It would require no great stretch of fancy to imagine that the lordly Plantation Monarchs of the south were in spirit revisiting the scenes of their former glory and weeping and wailing over their fallen greatness, and shrieking in vindictive hate their final adieus as the closing year closes up all hope for their success. No hope of Recognition by foreign Nations. No hope of an acknowledgment of their Independence by the United States. Nothing but disaster in the field for the most part of the year. Their Currency nearly worthless. Their Strength failing them. Sustained only in their opposition by their fears for their personal safty and their Vindictive hatred of the North. The Leaders of the rebellion seem bent upon using the power they now hold in revenging themselves for their failure and doing all the injury they can to the "hated yankee" before they are compelled to fly or yield.

31st Decr Continued

After three years of doubt & despondancy, of disaster and suffering, of a terrible Civil War and all its attendant horrors, we think we can now see the "beginning of the end." The public mind is boyant with hope and confidence. The universal sentiment is "The Rebellion Must and shall be put down." The "Compromise" party, the Anti war party, has dwindled down to a few discontented spirits who are looking to a "re-construction," and hope to find themselves on the dominant side of politics when the wheel turns over, and the masses of the south appear again at the ballot box as of yore. They are called "Copperheads" "Peace Democrats" "Southern sympathisers" &c. They oppose the Administration (of course), oppose the war generally, discourage enlistments, rant about Taxation, and especialy

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about the Draft, and seem generally determined to leave to their children the heritage which the Tories of the Revolution and the Hartford Conventionists of the War of 1812 left to theirs. The whole of the U.S. is My Country. "May She always be in the right. But my Country right or wrong."

Thursday Decr 31st 1863 continued.

Julia is still at Fort Simmons staying with Col Wellings family, has been there now almost two weeks. I met 'Ed' Dickerson today, he told me that Maj E P Taft expected his wife and family tonight. I must call at the Metropolitan Hotel in the morning and see if they have come. The prospect now is that not much calling will be done tomorrow. The past year has slipped away very speedily as it seems to me, and without any change as it regards the condition of myself or family, or relations. All live and as far as I know enjoy good health as usual. All of our Fathers family, except Brother Lyman, Sister Betsey and myself met at Lyons in Oct. Five Sisters & two Brothers. Harriet Northam of Lockport NY, Abby Sabin of Cincinnati Ohio, Lois W. Androus of Cold Water Michigan, Frances Root of Medina NY, and Jane Atwater of Lockport NY, C R Taft of Williamstown Mass, all met at Brother Newells House in Lyons. It was a pleasant re-union. I have been Home to Sag Harbor three times during the year, in March, in August, and in Nov, spending in all about six weeks at home with my family. My family left Lyons in April 1859. None of us have been there since. I intend to return when I can spare time to visit my friends.

Family History, June 1860

Washington D.C. June 1860.

The following is taken from "The Peerage of Ireland" or Genalogical History of the Nobility of that Kingdom, Vol 10, page 228.

"The family of Taffe hath been of great antiquity and considerable reputation in the Counties of Louth and Sligo, and hath produced many eminent persons, among whom

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was Sir Richard Taffe who flourished in the time of King Edward and died in 1287. Cotemporary with him was Lord Nicholas Taffe who by deed dated at Clantiffe [Crant Anemarum?] 1284 gave in purse and alms to God &c &c and died in Oct 1288 leaving issue John Taffe Arch Bishop of Armak who died in 1306, & Richard Fitz Nicholas Taffe against who by virtue of his father said Charter Adams Prior of the Holy Trinity in Dublin received 400 acres of Land in [Killergy?] with twenty marks cost in [Hellery Teren?] 1291. He left Issue two sons Richd & Nicholas, who about 1310 gave and confirmed the Manor of Donacumfer in the County of Kildare to the Priory of St Wolstan & in 1384 (Edward 3rd) had a grant from the Crown, of lands in [Kenlays?], &c &c.”

The History above quoted from goes on to describe different members of the Taffe Family and their titles and preferments, and distinguished service. Another quotation, “The members of this noble family have resided for a series of years in the Austrian Dominions and have filled the highest offices, Civil and Military,

under Imperial governments, doubtless from having been debarred the prouder gratification of serving their own country.

The Taffes are of great Antiquity in the Counties of Louth and Sligo.”

It is quite uncertain how much the “Taffes” of Ireland have to do with the ancestry of the Tafts of America. It appears that some of the “Taffes” went to England and served under a number of English Monarchs anterior to Queen Elizabeth, but were subsequently expelled on account of their religion (being Catholics). The name is not found now, either Taffe or Taft, in Great Britain except in Ireland. There is an old tradition in our family that we were decended from the Irish, but perhaps not generally understood by those bearing the name.

The first notice we have of the Tafts in this Country is in a deed from (“Proprietors Book,” Mendon Worcester Co Mass page 68) Colonel William Crown dated August 15th 1679, 80 Acres on West River, also 80 acres in the pine plains page 69. Robt Taft had resided in

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Braintree previous to the date of this deed. His Will dated 1724 is on record in the town of Mendon. Removed from Braintree to Mendon in 1679, as appears by record.

Robt Taft had five sons, his Wifes name was Sarah. As there does not appear any records of Births in his family, it is probable that these sons were born in Europe, or at least before he went to Braintree to reside.

The names of their five sons from whom all the Tafts in America are decended, were 1st Thomas, 2 Robert, 3rd Daniel, 4th Joseph (his wifes name was Elizabeth), 5th Benjamin.

Thomas Taft married Deborah [Genery?].

Robt Tafts wifes name was Elizabeth.

Daniel married Lydia Chapin.

Joseph wife family name not known.

Benjamin married Sarah Thomas.

Our branch of the Taft family came from Joseph, the 4th son of Robert and Sarah. Joseph Taft resided on the West side of Blackstone River about ½ a mile below the middle of the town of Uxbridge, then part of Mendon. Incorporated 1727. His farm lay partly on the Blackstone River, and partly on Mumford River North and adjoining Danl Tafts farm.

He had nine children, 1st Lucie Bn 1709, Sept 22nd, 2nd Moses 1713, 3rd Peter 1715, 4th Sarah born March 2nd 1719, 5th Joseph Apl 19th 1722, 6th Elizabeth Oct 30 1724, 7th Aaron Apl 12th 1727, 8th Margaret Feb 9th 1729, 9th Ebinezer Aug 8th 1732. The above Peter is our immediate ancestor. He married Elizabeth Cheny. They had Six Children, five sons and one daughter

as follows Henry born Feby 7th 1736

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Gershom [born] Oct 29th 1739

Peter [born] Aug 26th 1741

Aaron [born] May 28th 1743

Thankful [born] May 25 1745

Joseph [born] May 28 1747

The above Gershom married Abigail Read. They had Six children. He always lived in Uxbridge. His farm adjoined his Fathers directly south. He was very industrious, prosperous and respectable.

Their Childrens names were

1st Calvin Born Mr 1765

Elizabeth [born] May 13th 1769

Cheny [born] May 3rd 1771 (our Father)

Ruth (died young) Feb 23 1773

Phila [born] Feb 7 1775

Read [born] March 18 1780.

The above Cheny married Chloe White. He lived in Goshen Hampshire Co Mass, also in Savoy Mass, but removed to Williamstown Mass in 1812 where he lived until he died May 27 1838.

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He was married three times, first to Chloe White, by whom he had nine Children. 2nd to Lydia Ford, daughter of Lemuel Kenedy of Wmstown, by whom he had four children.

The 3 time to Olive Smith (no children). She outlived him and afterwards married Rev Doct Shepherd of Lenox Mass and he dying, she married Judge Dickinson of Amherst Mass.

The first Children were named as follows.

Newell born Apl 12 1794

Lyman [born] 1795

Willard [born] 1798 died 1825 in N Orleans.

Harriet [born] 1800

Abbigail [born] 1803

Horatio Nelson [born] 1806 13th Jan

Lois [born] 1808 9 March

Betsy [born] 1810

Calvin Read [born] 1813

By Lydia Ford

He had

died at 15 yrs / 1st Maria born 1816

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Died a child / Juliet [born] 1819

Frances (married L I Root) [born] 1825

Jane (married Jas Atwater) [born] 1827

Cheny, son of Gershom, who was son of Peter, who was son of Joseph, who was son of Robert, who was son of ----- [This text appears next to above section, vertically.]

Calvin, Elizabeth, and Cheny Taft (from Gershom) only had families. Calvin married Mary Murdoch. They had nine children, Gershom 1788, Marvel 1788, Benj Clark 1790, Chandler 1792, Phila 1796, Millins 1799, Mary 1803, Eliza 1805, James Whitmore 1809. He lived in Uxbridge.

Elizabeth, daughter of Gershom, married Chapin Keith, lived in Barre Vt, had five Children. Roswell, Erasmus, Leonard, Cheny & Calvin Jay, who died at Mt Pelier Vt about 1848.

The first wife of Cheny Taft (Chloe White) was a direct descendant from the Mr & Mis White who came to this country on the May Flower in 1620. Her family was from the neighborhood of Boston. A particular history of the White family would be interesting. I, H. N. Taft, Jan'y 1st 1863, well remember my Grand Mother White. She died at a very advanced age in 1812 in Williamstown. Early impressions are longest retained, and not over five or six years old myself, I definitely remember hearing her tell of her Fathers fighting the Indians and his narrow escapes from them. Her memory reached far back having been born about 1730, consequently she was a grown Woman and probably married before the old French War. How invaluable would be at this day a Diary kept at that time. How valuable may be and probably will be a Diary kept during these exciting times, during the "great Rebellion." The present always looks common place to us because every one around us knows the same that we ourselves do, and in noting down the events of today (if there were no rebellion or anything else unusual to note). We do

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not realize how interesting it would be for our descendants fifty or a hundred years hence to read the Simple record of our daily life. How and where we lived, and what we did and saw

from day to day. In our common self conceit we are apt to think that half a Century hence all things will be moveing on as they are now in the world, that our habits and manner of living and ways of thinking will all be the same to those on the Stage then. That we have nearly if not quite reached perfection as regards improvements &c. Our Fathers thought about the same thing fifty years ago. But Steam Boats and Rail Roads and the Electric Telegraph have all come into use since then. A hundred years ago the Steam Engine (which is Revolutionizing the World) was realy not known. It was almost a useless plaything till James Watt in 1764 made it nearly what it is now, or rather began his experiments then. The improvements which may be made, the discoveries which may be brought to light, may be quite as wonderful during the next fifty years & Those then upon the Stage will probably wonder how we could have ploded along as we did, and probably call us ignorant & old "Slow coaches." What we now know, our boasted discoveries and improvements, may then be looked upon with disdain and be left quite in the shade.

Washington D.C. January 1st 1863.

[Back Cover]